



OVER THE MOON
Actor Disha Patani says she is super excited to work in *Suriya 42*, a movie with larger-than-life elements
LEISURE P2



STANDOFF TO END
India and China will complete the disengagement process in Gogra-Hotsprings area in eastern Ladakh by September 12
NATIONAL P9



EVES FACE ENGLAND
India Women take on England Women in the first match of the three-game T20 International series, today
SPORTS P12

'GO BACK TO INDIA'
INDIAN-AMERICAN LAWMAKER RECEIVES THREAT MESSAGES

AGENCIES
Washington, Sept 9: Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has said that she has been receiving hate messages over phone from a male caller who even asked her to go back to India.
Chennai-born Jayapal posted a collection of five such audio messages. In all the messages, portions of which have been redacted because of obscene and abusive content, the male caller is heard threatening her with dire consequences and in one instance she is being asked to go back to her country of origin India. Jayapal, 55, is the first-ever Indian-American Congresswoman who represents Seattle in the US House of Representatives.
"Typically, political figures don't show their vulnerability. I chose to do so here because we cannot accept violence as our new norm. We also cannot accept the racism and sexism that underlies and propels so much of this violence," Jayapal, from the Democratic Party, said in a tweet.

COPS CAN ENDORSE GOOD SAMARITANS FOR CASH REWARD

AGENCIES
Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: In a bid to encourage people to extend helping hands to the road mishap victims immediately, the Odisha government has modified its Good Samaritan Policy, 2018 and made provision that police officers can also endorse a person for cash reward.
Police officers can now endorse and give recommendation letters to the saviours of road accident victims for cash reward under Good Samaritan Policy. "Till date, only doctors were authorised to issue such letters," a statement issued by the State Transport Authority said. The policy was modified after it was observed that in most of the cases doctors were not able to recommend names of good Samaritans due to their busy schedule. **P4**



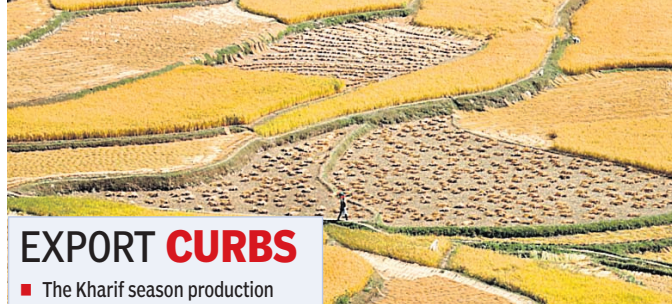
WORK OF FAITH: An artisan paints a clay idol of Goddess Durga at a workshop in Nadia, Friday ahead of Durga Puja

UDAN: 4 airstrips in Odisha identified as potential airports

POST NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi, Sept 9: Four airstrips in Odisha have been identified as potential airports to be developed in the fifth phase of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation informed.
The airstrips at Malkangiri, Hirakud, Baripada and Konark will be taken into consideration in the fifth round of UDAN scheme. While Malkangiri and Hirakud are in proximity to tourist destinations, Baripada and Konark are in proximity to spiritual places.
Significantly, Jeppore, Rourkela and Utkela have already been included under the UDAN scheme.
The ministry stated that a total of 54 airstrips have been identified across the country as potential airports to be developed under the UDAN scheme. In total, the list had 10 places in proximity to wildlife sanctuaries, 29 in proximity to tourist destinations and 15 in proximity to spiritual places.
"Proposed Airstrips near Wildlife and Tourist Destinations in India to be considered in next rounds of UDAN," the list released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation read.
"Non-operational airstrips were analysed for its proximity to tourist, wildlife, religious destinations and 54 airstrips have been identified as potential airports," it further stated.

Rice output may fall by 10-12 mn tonne

AGENCIES
New Delhi, Sept 9: India's rice production could fall by 10-12 million tonne during the Kharif season this year due to a fall in paddy sowing area, the government said Friday, but asserted that it would still have surplus output.
Thursday, the government imposed ban on exports of broken rice and also slapped an export duty of 20 per cent on non-basmati rice, except for parboiled rice, as its seeks to boost domestic supply and curb rising prices that have gone up by 8 per cent in wholesale market and 6 per cent in retail.
At a press conference to explain rationale behind the imposition of ban on exports of broken rice, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey pointed out that the paddy acreage is lower by 38 lakh hectare so far this Kharif season because of less rains in many states. The Kharif season contributes about 80 per cent of India's total rice production.
"Loss of production of rice may be 10 million tonnes and in the worst case it can be 12 million tonnes this year," he told reporters here.



EXPORT CURBS

- The Kharif season production shortfall is attributed to fall in paddy sowing area
- The government imposed ban on exports of broken rice and also slapped an export duty of 20 per cent on non-basmati rice
- India's decision to curb rice exports is expected to lift world prices of the staple
- India accounts for more than 40% of global rice shipments and competes with Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and Myanmar in the world market

India's decision to curb rice exports is expected to lift world prices of the staple and trigger a rally in rival wheat and corn markets, deepening concerns over food inflation.

Rice prices in key exporters India, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar are set to rise, traders and analysts said, hitting food importers already suffering from higher costs due to adverse weather and the Russia-Ukraine war.
"There is going to be substantial stresses on food security across many countries," said Phin Ziebell, agribusiness economist at National Australia Bank. "Global fundamentals could see further upside across the grains complex."
Chicago wheat prices rose Friday, poised for a third straight weekly gain, as India's move and talk about Russia's restrictions on Ukrainian grain shipments underpinned the market.

785 candidates clear OCS exam

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) announced the results of the Odisha Civil Services (OCS)-2020 (Main) written examination Friday.
As per a notification released by the OPSC Friday, a total of 785 candidates, including 287 women, have qualified in the written examination. The results were declared on the basis of the main written examination of OCS-2020 (Main) held from January 20 to February 8, 2022.
The list of the qualified candidates is available on the commission's website and also at the commissioner's notice board.
The document verification and personality test of the qualified candidates will be conducted from September 19 onwards at the office of the Commission in Cuttack.
The detail programme of the verification of the documents will be notified shortly, the notification stated.
The candidates are required to download their attestation form, bio-data form, declaration format from the website of the commission.
The candidates are advised to keep in constant touch with website of the commission at <http://opsc.gov.in> for further information.

SC relief for Kappan, Nupur

AGENCIES
New Delhi, Sept 9: The Supreme Court Friday granted bail to Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan, arrested in October 2020 while on his way to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh after a Dalit woman from there died following gangrape, appearing dismissive about the protests and saying "every person has right to free expression".
"Till now you have not shown anything provocative," a bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit and also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and PS Narasimha noted, while granting bail to Kappan who is in jail for almost two years.
The court also took note of the submissions of the Uttar Pradesh government and laid down several conditions for bail, including that he will have to remain in Delhi for the next six weeks after release from the prison and report to Nizamuddin police station here Monday every week.

Plea for Sharma's arrest turned down

AGENCIES
New Delhi, Sept 9: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking the arrest of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her remarks on the Prophet made during a TV debate.
A bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and PS Narasimha said the courts should think carefully while passing orders in such matters.
"This may sound simple and innocuous but it has far-reaching consequences. The court should be circumspect while issuing directions. We would suggest you withdraw your plea," the bench remarked.
The petitioner then withdrew the plea and the matter was declared dismissed as withdrawn.
The top court was hearing a plea filed by lawyer Abu Sohail seeking directions for an "independent, credible and impartial investigation" into the matter.



IN THE COURT

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Should we celebrate INA founder's statue or mourn the demise of the Queen INA fought against?

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	59793.14	↑ 104.92
NIFTY	17833.30	↑ 34.50
DOLLAR	79.90	↓ ₹0.12
EURO	79.89	↑ ₹0.27
GOLD	₹50,500	↑ ₹144
SILVER	₹54,901	↑ ₹620

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.1°C	32.6°C
TEMP MIN	26.4°C	26.0°C
Humidity	95%	85%
Rainfall	4.4mm	9.0mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy	cloudy sky

King Charles will travel sans passport, drive sans licence

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
London, Sept 9: The UK's new king will travel without a passport and drive without a licence, own all the mute swans in England and may continue a tradition of celebrating his birthday twice a year.
Here is a list of unusual facts about Britain's new monarch.
NO LICENCE OR PASSPORT
King Charles III will travel overseas without a passport because, unlike other members of the royal family, he will not need one as the document will be issued in his name. The preamble in every document will now state: "His Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State re-

quests and requires in the name of His Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance and to afford the bearer such assistance and protection as may be necessary." For the same reason, the king will be the only person in Britain who can drive without a licence.
TWO BIRTHDAYS
Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, had two birthdays - her actual birthday April 21, which was held in private, and an official public celebration on the second Tuesday in June, when the summery weather tends to be better for outdoor parades. As Charles' birthday is at the start of winter November 14, it

is likely he will also have an "official birthday" in a warmer month. The public celebration - the Trooping the Colour - dates back more than 250 years and involves more than 1,400 soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians in a display of military precision.
NO VOTING
The British monarch does not vote and cannot stand for election. As head of state, he or she must remain strictly neutral in political affairs. They are involved in the formal opening of parlia-

mentary sessions, approve legislation from parliament and hold weekly meetings with the prime minister.
SWANS, DOLPHINS
The British monarch does not just reign over people. Since the 12th century, unmarked mute swans in open waters across England and Wales are con-

sidered the property of the monarch.
Every year, royal rights are exercised on stretches of the River Thames, where the swans are counted in a tradition that has now become a conservation measure. The royal prerogative also applies to sturgeon, dolphins and whales in British waters.
OFFICIAL POET
Every 10 years, Britain appoints a poet laureate who composes verses for the monarch. The honorary post includes a butt of sherry - equivalent to 720 bottles. The tradition goes back to the 17th century. Carol Ann Duffy became the first woman nominated as poet laureate when she was appointed in 2009. She composed poems for Prince William's wedding in 2011, the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 2013 and the marriage of Prince Harry in 2018.
ROYAL WARRANT
Issued to those who regularly supply the monarch with goods and services, the warrant is a great honour and a boost for sales. Companies awarded the warrant are authorised to use the royal arms on their goods. Burberry, Cadbury, Jaguar Cars, Land Rover, Samsung and Waitrose supermarkets are among the companies with a royal warrant. **More P10**



leisure



ELTON REFUSES TO SELL RIGHTS TO HIS SONGS

Musician Elton John has turned down 'head-spinning' offers to offload his back catalogues. Deciding against handing over the rights to some of his biggest hits, the 75-year-old singer says he doesn't need the money and still "cares passionately" about his songs.

RADCLIFFE CHEERED AT TORONTO FILM FEST

The wee hours of Friday morning belonged to Daniel Radcliffe as he stars as the beloved parody musician in the upcoming Roku original film, which made its world premiere at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, kicking off TIFF's Midnight Madness programming lineup.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You may have a wide circle of casual friends, but today, these associations will prove to be beneficial. Your friends will help you chase away the blues. That way, you will also understand the deeper role of friendship, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Much to the disappointment and annoyance of your friends and associates, you are likely to act unduly possessive and self-centred about persons and objects, warns Ganesh. Be sure, your overprotective attitude is not likely to amuse anyone.

GEMINI
If you are embroiled in a legal dispute, an out-of-court settlement is likely, predicts Ganesh. You are a courageous person and you'll need a lot of it today. Don't back down from your decisions. You may have to be stern with a few people.

CANCER
Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. But the results may not be too forthcoming. However, that should not be a reason for you to get dejected or anxious. You will get your due sooner or later.

LEO
If you are wondering whether you'll get the carrot or the stick today, then Ganesh has some good news for you: the day promises to bring only rewards for you. This will be especially true for your workplace, where your innate talents get recognised today.

VIRGO
A sudden bend in the journey of life is important to understand it better, says Ganesh. Excellence will drone on throughout the day today. Top on the list are money matters and your loved ones - not necessarily in that order! Much of your time may be spent in appeasing the Gods.

LIBRA
Get a bigger wallet, since it is very likely that today shall prove to be a money-making day for you. It might be through some sort of a partnership deal that this may happen, predicts Ganesh. Destiny lends you a helping hand and guides you in your goals. But it is your sentiments that may darken your thoughts today.

SCORPIO
Two words will define your day - eloquence and elegance. Sweet talk and compliments may take you a long way, but do not become complacent and get carried away with your success. Sometimes, saying the right thing may be more beneficial than saying what the other person wants to hear.

SAGITTARIUS
Unnecessary expenditure might clog your bill today, feels Ganesh. Organising and detailing will be a time-sink as you will spend hapless hours trying to discipline things. The vibrant evening will be a contrast to your hectic day as you kick back and relax while socialising.

CAPRICORN
Paradise is where patience leads you, success is the other terminus, says Ganesh. Keeping your cool will benefit you in more ways than you would have imagined, so think twice before you unleash your vengeance on your foes. You are also likely to have a heart-to-heart conversation with your beloved and make him/her feel wanted.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will understand the value of your job. You decide to do away with everything that has been hampering your work till now. You realise you need to set some long-term goals in your career. Grab the opportunity while the intention lasts, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Your inherent talents, competitive colleagues and supportive superiors will spur you on to great heights at the workplace, beginning today. Make sure that you do not get carried away by little victories, says Ganesh.

28TH OMC GKCM AWARD FEST COMES TO AN END

Odissi dance ballet *Ravana* defies popular opinion on demon king

Bhubaneswar: The 28th edition of OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival, organised by Srjan, culminated Friday here at Rabindra Mandap after four consecutive evenings of spectacular classical dance and music presentations.

The fifth and final evening witnessed a dance ballet and presentation of awards for individual excellence. In the much-awaited finale, Srjan presented the Odissi dance ballet *Ravana*, choreographed by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, the driving force behind the dance school.

Defying the popular notion of *Ravana*, this Odissi production presented a novel understanding of the epic *Ramayana*. Donning the central role of *Ravana*, Guru Ratikant Mohapatra portrayed the character with spell-binding effect. Portraying *Ravana* as the *raison d'être* of the *Ramayana*, the recital began with a powerful and striking invocation to *Dashanana*, a departure from the customary invocation to gods and goddesses. *Ravana*, the *Mahanayaka*, who strove to attain *moksha* through strife, struggle, and warfare, is the all-powerful king who displayed rare courage, integrity, and perseverance, in spite of a variety of negative and evil traits. Striking costumes, memorable music, and excellent dancing characterised this presentation. The dancers, Rajashri



Guru Ramhari Das and Guru Niranjan Rout received GKCM Award -2022

Praharaj, Ritu Sengupta, Aishwariya Singhdev, Sipra Swain, Preetisha Mohapatra, Madhabi Rout, Daina Ghose, Alisha Dhal, Sanjay Kumar Behera, and G Sanjay delivered power-packed performances, while playing each character with poise and maturity.

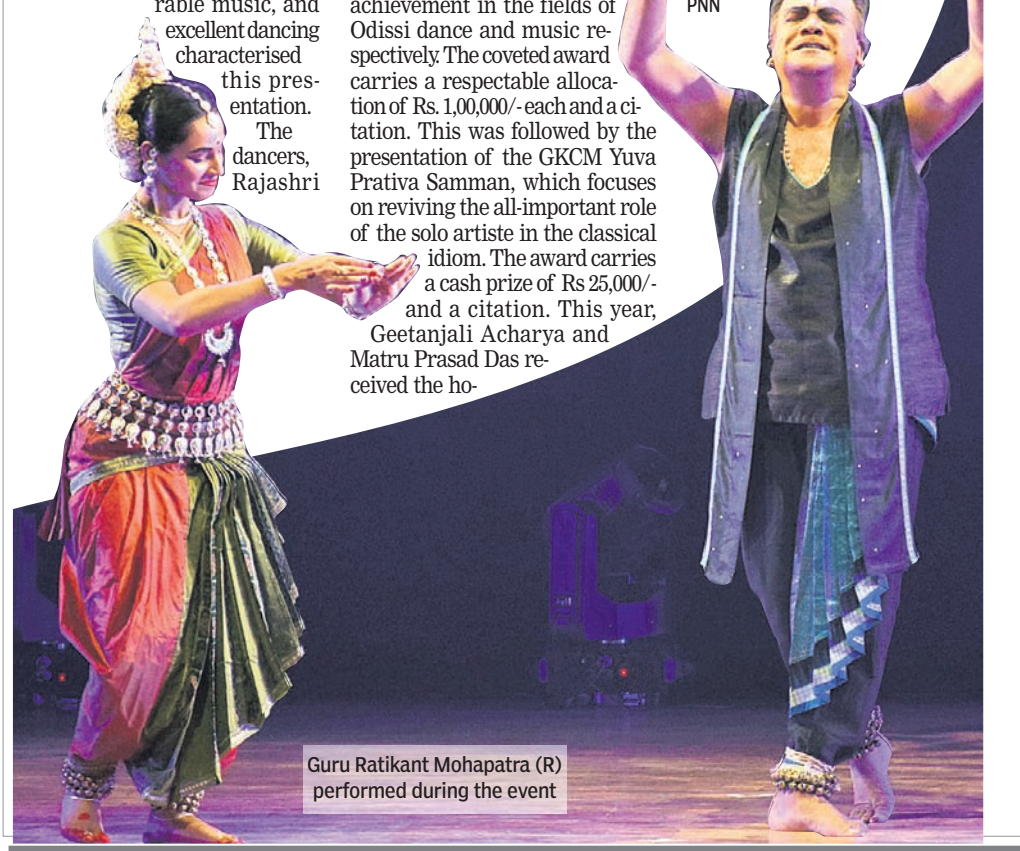
They were aided by the skillful and distinctive light designing of Debiprasad Mishra and the seamless sound engineering of C Anand Krishna.

The GKCM Award 2022 was presented to Niranjan Rout and Ramhari Das for their immense contribution and lifetime achievement in the fields of Odissi dance and music respectively. The coveted award carries a respectable allocation of Rs. 1,00,000/- each and a citation. This was followed by the presentation of the GKCM Yuva Prativa Samman, which focuses on reviving the all-important role of the solo artiste in the classical idiom. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 25,000/- and a citation. This year, Geetanjali Acharya and Matru Prasad Das received the ho-

nour for Odissi dance and Odissi music (vocal) respectively, in recognition of their inspiring performances and commitment to their Art.

Earlier, noted cine actor Sidhanta Mohapatra, former member of Board of Revenue, Odisha, Ashok Kumar Tripathy, Odisha; and OMC's Managing Director Balwant Singh, addressed the audience on the concluding evening.

Orissa POST and **Dharitri** were the print media partners of the event. PNN



Guru Ratikant Mohapatra (R) performed during the event

Disha over the moon teaming up with Suriya

Mumbai: Actress Disha Patani, who will be seen starring in upcoming periodic action film *Suriya 42*, is over-the-moon to be a part of such a huge project that has got all the larger-than-life elements for the audience to experience on the big screen.

Disha said: "I am super kicked to announce my next with Suriya sir and Siva sir. It feels great to be a part of such a huge project that has got all the larger-than-life elements for the audience to experience on the big screen."

She added: "Moreover, the character that I am playing is also quite unique and I am also excited to bring my never seen before avatar to the audience."

The film is being produced by Studio Green Gnanavel Raja and has music by Devi Sri Prasad. Disha Patani plays the female lead in this film, which has cinematography by Vetri Palanisamy, who had shot superhits like Ajith-starrer *Veeram* and *Vedalam*.

Disha has ignited the excitement among the audience with the announcement of her lead in *Suriya 42* upcoming film, the actress will also be seen in Karan Johar's *Yodha* co-starring Sidharth Malhotra and Project K alongside Amitabh Bachchan, Prabhas, and Deepika Padukone. IANS



Shruti's *She Is A Hero* is about triumphs of women

Chennai: After the success of her first single *Edge*, actress-singer Shruti Haasan has now released her next track titled *She Is A Hero*.

Penned, composed and sung by Shruti herself, the track, which also features popular rapper MC Altf, was released on the actress's official YouTube channel Friday.

Commenting on the release of her second original track *She Is A Hero*, Shruti said: "I'm so glad to finally put out my second single and that too with such talented musicians and with something that I care deeply

about being a woman myself."

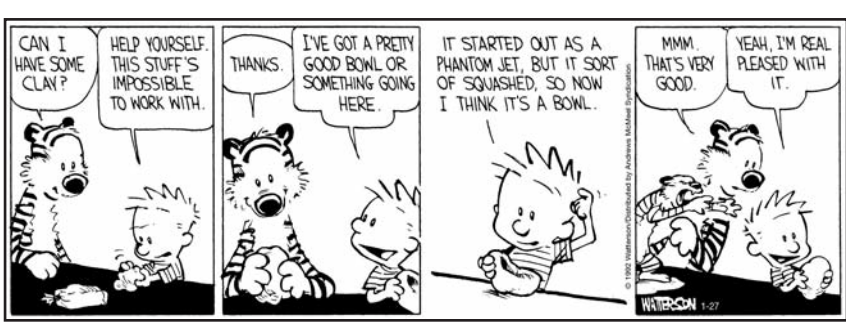
"*She Is A Hero* brings together varied artists and a mix of genres to shine a light on the struggles and triumphs of women. A true musical collaboration, the track brings together MC Altf's unique flavour of music which complements Shruti's singer-songwriter energy beautifully."

"The track has been produced by Karan Kanchan and Karan Parikh while visual artist Santanu Hazarika has donned the creative director's hat for this special track. Screenwriter and lyricist Niranjan Iyengar has penned the additional Hindi lyrics for Shruti's part," said a source. IANS

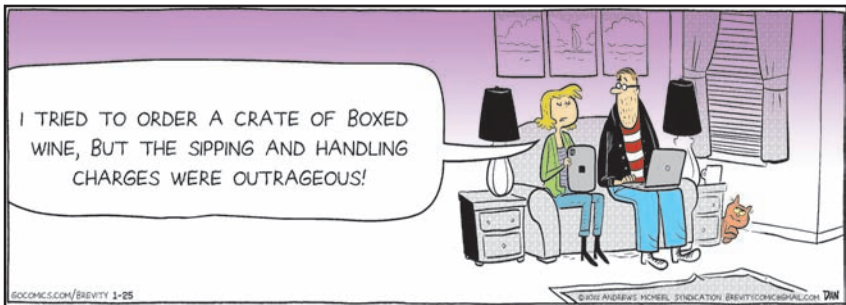
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

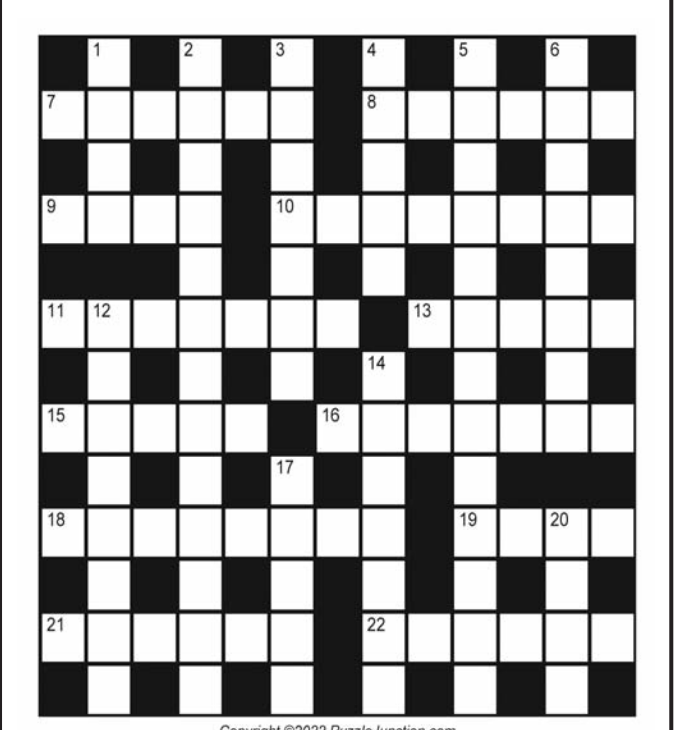


BREVITY



FUN post

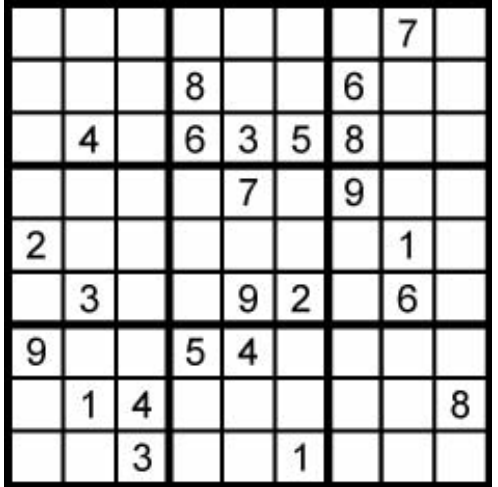
CROSSWORD



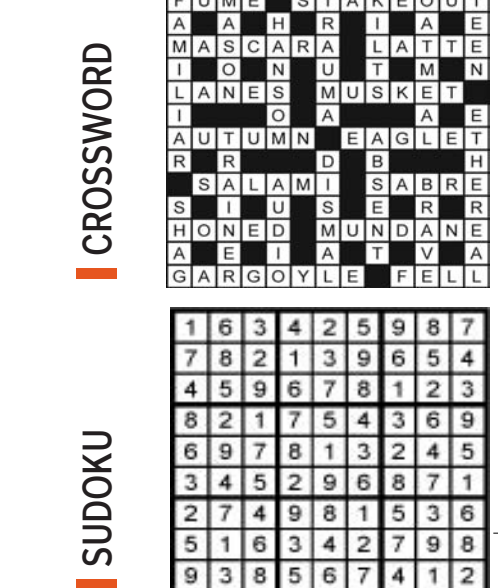
- Across**
- 7 King Arthur's Round Table, e.g.
 - 8 Troublemaker
 - 9 Interrogate
 - 10 Physician, to some
 - 11 Cricket players
 - 13 Strong point
 - 15 Organ parts
 - 16 Italian rice dish
 - 18 Hilo native
 - 19 Savoir-faire
 - 21 Gobble up
 - 22 After black or rain
 - 3 Amazing adventure
 - 4 Shrimp relative
 - 5 Vespa and Lambretta, e.g.
 - 6 Intense
 - 12 Aardvark or tamandua
 - 14 Indicate
 - 17 Journal
 - 20 Wine holder
- Down**
- 1 Bill of fare
 - 2 Some singing voices (5-8)

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.




SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

























NEET (UG) 2022 Champions Again!



 715 720 AIR 1 RAJASTHAN TOPPER Tanishka Distance Program	 715 720 AIR 2 DELHI (NCT) TOPPER Vatsa A. Batra 2 Year Classroom Program	 715 720 AIR 3 KARNATAKA TOPPER Hrishikesh N Gangule 2 Year Classroom Program	
 710 720 AIR 9 GUJARAT TOPPER Zeel Vyas 4 Year Classroom Program	 710 720 AIR 10 JAMMU & KASHMIR TOPPER Haziq Parveez Lone 2 Year Classroom Program	80918* Aakashians Qualified in NEET (UG) 2022 <small>68097 Classroom + 12821 Distance & Digital</small>	
5	27	52	18
<small>in Top 10 AIR (All India Rank)</small>	<small>in Top 50 AIR (All India Rank)</small>	<small>in Top 100 AIR (All India Rank)</small>	<small>State & UT Toppers</small>

➤ Top Performers from Odisha Branches

Odisha State Topper

 705 720 AIR 39 Priya Somadutta N 3 Year Classroom	 690 720 AIR 309 Subharanjan M 2 Year Classroom	 686 720 AIR 439 Saumya Sajjan Panda 2 Year Classroom	 685 720 AIR 475 Suryansu Kumar Dash 2 Year Classroom	 685 720 AIR 504 Pratik Sahoo 3 Year Classroom	 685 720 AIR 533 Abhipsa Padhi 2 Year Classroom	 685 720 AIR 557 SP Akankshya 1 Year Classroom	 680 720 AIR 901 Ashutosh Rath 1 Year Classroom
 675 720 AIR 1221 Pratyush Kumar Pradhan 1 Year Classroom Program	 675 720 AIR 1250 Audit Kiran Swain 1 Year Classroom Program	 674 720 AIR 1292 Swapnil Das Mohapatra 2 Year Classroom Program	 670 720 AIR 1590 Rahul Pati 2 Year Classroom Program	 670 720 AIR 1750 Swayam Nachiket 1 Year Classroom Program	 666 720 AIR 1896 Anirudh Dhal 2 Year Classroom Program	 665 720 AIR 2228 Navneet Ray 2 Year Classroom Program	 665 720 AIR 2230 Mansoor Ali Baig 1 Year Classroom Program
 662 720 AIR 2477 Jagannath Dash 1 Year Classroom Program	 660 720 AIR 2760 K Siva Naimisha 2 Year Classroom Program	 660 720 AIR 2783 Sijal Sahoo 2 Year Classroom Program	 656 720 AIR 3325 Ashirbad Parichha 2 Year Classroom Program	 655 720 AIR 3599 Abhisek Nanda 1 Year Classroom Program	 655 720 AIR 3680 Swayam Pattnaik 2 Year Classroom Program	 653 720 AIR 3888 Bijan Kumar Sahoo 1 Year Classroom Program	 652 720 AIR 4010 Suryasnata Jena 1 Year Classroom Program

(*Including state toppers in female category)

Though every care has been taken to publish the result correctly, yet Aakash Educational Services Ltd. shall not be responsible for inadvertent error, if any.

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(Chandrasekharapur): 7008005000, 7008000100, 9078884990, 9337355746

Cuttack: 7008005000, 7504438914, 9337355773, 9337355230

Balasure: 7008005000, 9311734469, 9337355747

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Now, cops can endorse Samaritans for reward

The modification in the policy came after it was observed that in most of the cases doctors were not able to recommend names of Good Samaritans due to their busy schedule



THE POLICY HAS PROVISIONS THAT A GOOD SAMARITAN OR BYSTANDER SHALL BE SUITABLY REWARDED OR COMPENSATED TO ENCOURAGE OTHER CITIZENS TO COME FORWARD AND HELP ACCIDENT VICTIMS

IT ALSO HAS THE PROVISION OF REWARDING ₹2,000 IN EACH CASE FOR THE GOOD SAMARITAN

ROAD ACCIDENT DEATHS CAN BE REDUCED BY 50 PER CENT IF THE VICTIM GETS ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE GOLDEN HOUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ommend names of Good Samaritans due to their busy schedule.

In this context, STA proposed to the government that other than the treating physician, police officers like investigating officers, inspectors in-charge of police stations enquiring into the accident cases may be authorised to recommend the names of the Good Samaritans to the RTOs so that more number of deserving Good Samaritans can be rewarded for their noble deed.

Good Samaritan Policy-2018 was introduced in the state to recognise and encourage people to save and assist the accident victims during the first hour of road accident termed as 'Golden Hour'.

Road accident deaths can be reduced by 50 per cent if the victim gets assistance within the golden hour, the STA said.

duced by 50 per cent if the victim gets assistance within the golden hour, the STA said.

As per existing norms of the policy, the hospital authority not below the assistant surgeon who receive the accident patient were authorised to recommend names of Good Samaritans to the respective RTOs for reward.

The policy has provisions that a Good Samaritan or bystander shall be suitably rewarded or compensated to encourage other citizens to come forward and help the road accident victims by admitting them to hospitals. It also has the provision of rewarding ₹2,000 in each case for the Good Samaritan.

Official sources said that a total of 25,257 deaths were reported due to road accidents in Odisha from 2017 to 2021.



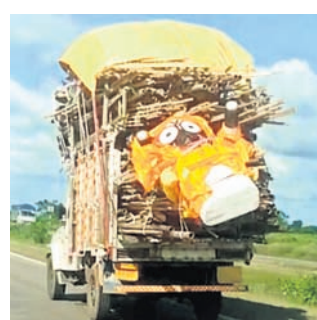
MARKING A YEAR: Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar and other dignitaries attending the observance of one year of the HC record room digitisation centre in Cuttack, Friday

Netizens livid over disrespect to Lord

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: A video of Lord Jagannath's idol being ferried in a pick-up van in a disrespectful manner along with a bunch of bamboo and wood on a national highway in Balasore district has gone viral on social media, drawing strong condemnation from the netizens.

A youth named Binay Pradhan, who was travelling on the Bhubaneswar-Jaleswar highway Thursday, had noticed the



idol tied to a rope hanging from the van and filmed the moment,

which later went viral.

As the video went viral, netizens strongly condemned the careless manner in which the idol was being carried and demanded an apology from the persons responsible for it.

Later, the tent house owner and his staff visited a Jagannath temple in Jaleswar and begged for forgiveness for their mistake.

The tent owner said the idol was installed in a Ganesh puja pandal in Balasore and after im-

mersion of the Ganesh idol, the Jagannath idol along with other materials were being transported to his hometown Jaleswar.

"I was out of station on that day. As my workers are non-Odia people, they didn't know about our sentiments with Lord Jagannath. Whatever my workers have done is really disgraceful. I would like to apologise for hurting the sentiments of Jagannath devotees. I will never commit such mistake in future," the tent house owner said.

7 Union ministers on 2-day visit to state

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: With the BJP central leadership announcing Odisha as its focus state for the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, as many as seven Union Ministers are on a two-day visit to the state beginning Friday, party sources said.

The seven Union Ministers who are visiting the state are: Dharmendra Pradhan, Arjun Munda, Nityananda Rai, Ashwini Choubey, Bhupendra Yadav, Bishweswar Tudu and Nisith Paramanik.

While Pradhan, Munda, Rai have already reached the state, Choubey and Tudu were scheduled to arrive Friday night. Yadav and Paramanik will reach here Saturday, the sources said.

Apart from Union ministers,

BJP's national spokesperson Sambit Patra and party's national vice-president Bajajant Panda also came to the state to accompany the Central ministers and also attend different meetings with saffron leaders.

The visit of over half-a-dozen Union ministers to Odisha, came after recent visit of BJP's newly appointed Odisha in-charge Sunil Bansal earlier this week and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's tour in August.

During his visit, Shah had announced that Odisha was on the focus list of BJP and the saffron party will come to power in the state in the 2024 Assembly election.

Party sources said that the seven union ministers will visit at least 12 Lok Sabha segments across Odisha where the BJP's position was comparatively bad. Though the BJP

candidates had won in 8 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha in 2019 elections, it lost in 13 other seats.

"Our ministers will visit those areas and meet the party workers and guide them on how to perform better in the 2024 elections," said BJP state spokesperson Rajendra Panda.

As per the agenda, while Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda left for Jajpur district after his arrival here, Minister of State for Home Nityananda Rai will visit Cuttack.

Munda is scheduled to have a meeting with the district administration regarding the execution of the central schemes in the district. Union Minister for Environment Bhupendra Yadav, who was supposed to arrive here Friday evening, however, rescheduled his programme and will arrive Saturday.

Minister of State for Consumer

Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu will be reaching shortly, Panda said.

"BJP leaders including union ministers visit different parts of the country keeping in view both the organizational interest as well as official work," Nityanand Rai said on his arrival at the airport here.

BJP state general secretary Lekhashree Samantsinghar said the union ministers will attend official reviews and also meet the party workers during the visit.

Senior Congress leader and MLA Suresh Routray, however, said that the visit of Union Ministers and BJP leaders indicated that the General elections will be held in 2023 instead of its scheduled time in 2024.

Anubhav, Varsha fined by court

AGENCIES

Cuttack, Sept 9: A family court here, which is hearing the divorce case involving Lok Sabha MP Anubhav Mohanty and his actress wife Varsha Priyadarshini, Friday slapped a penalty of ₹5,000 each on the couple for unnecessarily delaying the proceedings of the case.

The case was transferred here from a New Delhi court.

The court observed that both are adopting delaying tactics and seeking repeated adjournments.

During the hearing on the day, the court, however, agreed to accept two additional applications of the estranged couple for adjudication.

While Anubhav in his fresh application has sought to make amend-

ments in his original application to modify the mention of the venue of their marriage, Varsha has sought to modify her earlier application on recording the depositions of the witnesses.

Married in 2014, the star couple is now entangled in several court cases after Anubhav moved a New Delhi-based court in 2020 seeking a divorce. Following Supreme Court's intervention, the divorce case was transferred to a family court here in 2021.

Varsha has also approached separate courts here seeking restitution of conjugal life and alimony. Apart from the court cases, the estranged couple has also made several police complaints here against each other.

FIFA U-17 WOMEN'S WC

Officials told to complete prep by end of Sept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The state government Friday directed its officials to complete all preparations by this month for Fifa U-17 Women's World Cup (WC) at Kalinga Stadium.

The prestigious tournament will be held in Bhubaneswar, Margao in Goa and Navi Mumbai from October 11-30. The Kalinga Stadium will host three pool matches of India on October 11, 14 and 17.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra held a high-level meeting at the Loka Seba Bhawan during the day and reviewed the progress of preparatory work at the stadium, which has been equipped with adequate training and parking facilities.

Promotional activities and hospitality were among the other things discussed in the meeting, according to an official release.

Mahapatra directed the departments to complete assigned work by the end of September, calling for more focus on sectors such as sanitation, security and Fire Services.

Development Commissioner Pradeep Jena advised deployment of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and Fire Services teams in advance at the stadium.

Fifa official Roma Khanna expressed satisfaction over the progress made in upgrading infrastructure for the tournament and praised the sports ecosystem developed in the state.

"Odisha was just home to hockey; the state is now also becoming home to football," Khanna said.

Sports secretary Vineel Krishna said training centres - four of natural grass and one artificial - will offer ample time for practice to the visiting teams without clashes in schedule.

"The main ground, which hosted Indian Women's League and Saff U-20 Championships recently, is among the best football venues in India and will provide a wonderful experience to the young players," Krishna said.

The chief secretary also asked the school and sports departments to work out a schedule to enable students watch matches at the stadium.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik felicitated NEET-2022 Odisha topper Priya Somadutta Nayak of SAI International School at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PK Roul new VC of OUAT

Bhubaneswar: Governor Ganeshi Lal, the Chancellor of universities in Odisha, Friday appointed Pravat Kumar Roul as the Vice Chancellor (V-C) of OUAT in Bhubaneswar, an official said. He will serve as the V-C for four years with effect from the date he assumes office or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the official pointed out.

Roul, who is presently working as managing director of APICOL, has more than 29 years of teaching experience. He has published 24 books and successfully guided nine Ph.D scholars, added the official. Roul will replace Pawan Kumar Agrawal, the current V-C, OUAT.



NGT notice on Nayapalli Haza

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Friday issued notices to the Odisha government, state pollution control board, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation among others on an application alleging encroachment on Nayapalli Haza water body. A bench of judicial member B Amit Shalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta sought responses from the parties within four weeks. Advocate Shankar Pani, counsel for the applicant, submitted that drain number 10, which flows from Nayapalli Haza, has been obstructed.

Coal crisis: UCCI seeks Naveen's intervention

Bhubaneswar: The Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) has urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday to save Odisha-based industries from

the alarming situation of closure due to prolonged coal supply crunch by Coal India. Over the past year, industries dependent on indigenous coal to run their plants are severely impacted due to the supply shortage, bringing multiple factories to the verge of closure, the UCCI said in a letter to Patnaik. "We beg to state that despite several representations by various industry players as well as associations, the coal supply scenario to the non-power sector has deteriorated steeply," UCCI president Brahma Mishra said.

Puri airport wall work to begin September 20

Bhubaneswar: Work for construction of boundary wall of the proposed international airport at Puri will start September 20 and is likely to be completed in four months. This was decided at a meeting chaired by principal advisor to CM Asit Tripathy here, Friday.

Only edu can shape a child to face challenges: Samanta

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: It is education that shapes the children, develops their character and prepares them to face challenges, said KISS and KIIT founder Achyuta Samanta here, Friday.

Addressing the media on Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) being conferred with the highest global recognition on Literacy—UNESCO International Literacy Prize 2022, Samanta thanked UNESCO for recognising the relentless efforts of KISS towards ensuring holistic education to numerous in-

digenous children.

"I thank UNESCO for recognising our efforts and social innovations in the field of education, literacy and indigenous empowerment. During my childhood, I struggled to get proper education. And now I put all my life and soul to provide holistic education to millions at margins as I have realised that only education can prepare a child to take on the challenges of life," Samanta pointed out.

A well-known anthropologist, KISS Vice Chancellor Deepak Kumar Behera said though the multi-lingual lab was one of the recommendations of the National



Education Policy, 2020, it has already been implemented at their institution long ago. "We have also pub-

lished an illustrated dictionary to help indigenous children and their teachers manage the linguistic

challenges during the learning process," added Behera.

According to KISS CEO and Registrar Prashant Kumar Routray the institution ensures sync between the house and school languages through the multi-lingual lab. "KISS provides a student-centric curriculum and comfort of a homely atmosphere to indigenous kids," said Routray. He further said that the model of language learning at KISS has now been adopted by the Centre and the state government as the institution has got 35 master trainers and 150 teachers associated with the multi-lingual lab.

The prize carries an endowment of USD 20,000, a medal and a citation. The prize was given away at a global award ceremony organised by UNESCO in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) Thursday.

As a grassroots organisation aimed at nation-building, KISS has the coveted recognition to be the fifth recipient from India and the first and only institute from Odisha to receive this international honour. It is also the third among the Indian non-profit NGOs and the first Indian tribal-based organisation to be conferred with this award, which is a matter of pride for India, said an official.

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13 years on, Black Rose mystery still underwater

THE WRECKAGE THAT IS YET TO BE RETRIEVED CONTINUES TO BE A LURKING DANGER FOR FISHING VESSELS, BOATS AND SHIPS



Authority) had spent over ₹50 crore to drain out oil and the body of the engineer from the ship.

The sinking of the vessel not only became a major political issue in the state, but also was dragged to the Orissa High Court and later, to the Supreme Court.

The company which had hired the ship has been blacklisted.

In 2018, the then PPT chairperson Rinkesh Ray had recommended CBI investigation into the incident. However, CBI has not yet started its probe and no attempt to reach out to the Mongolian owner of the MV Black Rose has been made.

The sinking of the vessel was initially investigated by the local police and then by the Crime Branch of Odisha Police. It was later taken over by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). However, the exact reason behind the sinking of the cargo ship has not been unraveled and it lies hidden under the waters of Bay of Bengal.

Even 13 years after the giant ship met its watery grave in the anchorage zone of the Paradip port, the wreckage is yet to be cleared.

However, neither the state government nor the Paradip Port Trust (PPT) authorities seem to be in a mood to move a proposal to remove residues of the ship from the bed of the Bay of Bengal. It was once said that around ₹120 crore was required to remove the total wreckage from the sea.

under mysterious circumstances. It was on a chartered voyage to China. The chief engineer of the vessel, a Ukrainian citizen, lost his life while 26 others on board were rescued.

The sinking of the vessel had grabbed newspaper headlines nationally and globally. It triggered a controversy as opposition parties in the state alleged that the vessel was engaged in illegal transportation of iron-ore and other minerals by forging documents. The opposition parties even alleged that MV Black Rose was used to bring iron ore for sponge (iron) plants belonging to some leaders by forging documents.

Marine police station had filed a case in this regard. Later, a number of cases were lodged with the Crime Branch, and in Calcutta and Orissa High Courts.

The Paradip Port Trust (now

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Sept 9: Thirteen years have passed since the Mongolian cargo ship MV Black Rose sank drowned in the Bay of Bengal five kilometre off the Paradip coast September 9, 2009.

However, the exact cause of its sinking has remained a mystery till date and its wreckage has not yet been cleared completely from the sea bed.

The ship wreckage is a lurking danger for fishermen as well as fishing trawlers, boats and ships. They are likely to meet with accidents after hitting the piles of wreckage of the cargo vessel.

Reports said, September 9, 2009, Mongolian vessel MV Black Rose carrying cargo of 23,847 metric tonne iron ore and 920 metric tonne of furnace oil sank five kilometre off the Paradip coast

ASI experts' team visits Barpali excavation site

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Sept 9: An Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team has visited Barpali area in Bargarh district to decide on taking over the excavation carried out by the Gangadhar Meher University (GMU).

Artifacts of post-Mauryan period, believed to be of Asurgarh settlement, were recovered during the excavation conducted by the History department of the GMU earlier this year.

Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, had June 18 written to the Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region, Dr G Kishan Reddy, seeking his intervention in giving direction to the ASI to take over the excavation of the site.

According to officials of the GMU, the History department of the university had selected the spot for archaeological spade work in June this year to ascertain the cultural sequencing of the site.

Cultural sequencing is a relative dating method in which artefacts from numerous sites in the same culture are placed in a chronological order.

The excavation undertaken by the university unearthed 2,000 year old artefacts, dating back to the



post-Mauryan period, from the site, the officials said.

During excavations, ancient artefacts like coins, seals, iron weapons, fragmented terracotta figurines, black slipped ware (BSW), and red slipped ware (RSW) were retrieved from the site.

Large number of knobbed ware pottery, indicative of early urbanisation and trade and commerce, were also found recovered. The excavation also yielded iron smelting hearth.

Other important antiquities like saddle querns, arrow heads, fragmented crucible, microliths, polished stones, beads of semi precious stones were also found.

Superintending Archaeologist, Excavation Branch-4, Bhubaneswar, Dr Susant Kumar Kar, said: "We inspected the site Thursday. Rainfall has caused growth of vegetation there. We will visit the area again during summer for our next course of action."

Probe into forest land grabbing starts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 9: Following media reports, officials of the Revenue department have started investigation into land encroachment by a company in Amalipena mouza under Jujumura tehsil of Sambalpur district.

The company has grabbed a patch of 3 acre of land falling under 'patara Jungle' category about which a leading Odia newspaper reported. The officials have got evidence of the land grabbing. The investigation report has been submitted to the Jujumura tehsildar.

Locals alleged that some revenue officials have shown favouritism to the company concerned by giving it permission to use it as stockyard. "Before grabbing the forest land, the company had chopped off some trees and buried them. If the company is not disclosed from the forest land, they would grab the entire land," locals fumed.

They demanded that both the Revenue and the Forest departments should take stern action against the errant company. They also warned of moving a petition at the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in this matter.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 9: People of five villages under Naktideula block of Sambalpur have set an example for others by building a 150-metre long and 5 feet wide wooden bridge across Ankabuda creek. The commuting woes that they had been suffering over years have come to an end.

In the past monsoons when the creek in spate used to cut them off from the outer world, they failed to venture out of their marooned villages. People of Dhalataila, Dimirikuda, Ranjha, Ganjabahal and Botajharan villages

Rasulpur block bans tobacco on premises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Sept 9: In an effort to keep the atmosphere in the office clean, the Rasulpur block administration in Jajpur district has prohibited the use of tobacco products on its premises.

The directive, issued Tuesday by the block development officer (BDO) Abani Kanta Sahoo, imposed a ban on use of paan, gutka, smoking of bidi and cigarettes and consumption of liquor within the premises.

Any violation of the directive would invite a penalty of at least ₹500 against the erring employee. A fine of ₹1,000 fine would be imposed on the employee found consuming liquor during office hours. Strict disciplinary action would be taken against those found violating the directive, which has been taken in order to keep the office building, corridors and premises clean and hygienic.

"Chewing of paan, paan masala and gutka and spitting on office walls, corners and its premises creates an unclean and filthy environment, thus affecting the productivity of an organisation," Sahoo said.

The employees of the block have been given strict instructions to stop chewing paan and gutka and smoking bidi or cigarettes in the office.



A herd of elephants that strayed from Jharkhand and has been on a damaging spree for the last few weeks, enjoyed bathing in a pond near a forest under Patana range of Keonjhar district, Friday

OP PHOTO

Mystery disease kills 11 in 7 days



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 9: An unknown disease has been playing havoc at Haladikud village in Temurupalli panchayat under Mathili block of Malkangiri district. In the last one week, 11 people have died of the disease, it was alleged. A patient identified as Masa Madkami of Haladikud village died Friday while he was being shifted from the Mathili subdivision hospital to the district headquarters hospital (DHH). The deaths have triggered panic among people. It was alleged that people in

the panchayat have been seeking help of quacks and traditional healers to treat the disease instead of taking the patients to hospitals. Medical experts say, this superstitious practice has deprived the patients of modern medical treatment.

Meanwhile, police have arrested a quack identified as Narendra Madi of Salimi panchayat of Haladikud following a complaint lodged by the medical officer of the Mathili subdivision hospital.

Locals said, people affected by the disease are learnt to have swollen limbs along with high fever.

A team of doctors visited the village and took stock of the situation. The team had advised 15 affected people to be admitted to the hospital.

The medical team said that quacks are worsening the condition of patients. IIC Suryaprakash Nayak said that the accused quack has been arrested and produced in court.

SHG members to deliver rural banking services

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 9: The state government has roped in over 230 members of women self-help groups (SHGs) as bank representatives to deliver banking services to all rural households in every panchayat of Ganjam district.

As per reports, a member of women SHG under Mission Shakti or an educated woman will be appointed as bank representative 'Sakhi' in every panchayat to deliver banking services to the rural folks. Meanwhile, process has been launched for appointing the women as bank representatives.

The move will help villagers access banking services near their house and the women members earn a livelihood and become self-reliant. As part of this move, the appointed 'Sakhis' are being provided with training at the self-employment training centre of Union Bank of India at Chhatrapur.

According to Saswat Kumar Sahoo, the district project coordinator of Mission Shakti here, over 230 members of women SHGs under the state government's ambitious Mission Shakti programme are being appointed as bank representatives. Meanwhile, 74 members of women SHGs have already started working



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

as 'Sakhi' while 26 more women joined training at the training centre recently.

Director Kishore Chandra Nayak of the training centre presided over the inaugural function and spoke in detail about the training programme and its objectives.

Ganjam district lead district manager (LDM) Ashok Panda said that it is not possible for the banks to open branches in every place for which the women members of self-help groups are being appointed as 'Sakhi' bank representatives. They will serve as a link between banks and the villagers and provide banking services to the villagers in every panchayat.

Woman awarded 7-yr jail term for bobbitising man

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 9: The court of chief judicial magistrate here Friday awarded seven years of imprisonment to a woman after convicting her of bobbitising a man.

Chief judicial magistrate Ranjulata Lenka pronounced the verdict and also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on the convict. The woman was identified as Kamala Patra of Nuagaon under Harichandanpur police limits. In case of default, the convict has to undergo an additional jail term of six months, the court said.

According to the case diary, Kamala had invited Rajendra Nayak, a resident of Jharbeda under Pandapada police limits, to her house November 7 evening in 2018. She served him alcoholic drink and later sliced Rajendra's private part with a sharp-edged knife. On being informed, police rescued Nayak and admitted him to Harichandanpur CHC and later shifted him to SCB Medical College and Hospital. Rajendra's father Abhimanyu Nayak had filed a complaint against Kamala at the police station.

JUMBOS' POOL PARTY

Plaster falls off MKCG ceiling again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 9: A patch of plaster fell off the ceiling of the super specialty block of the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here in Ganjam district Friday.

This is the second such incident that took place in the last 24 hours. August 26, a fire had broken out in the same building. Given the series of such incidents, the building seems to be

unsafe for patients, it was alleged.

However, no one was injured in the latest incident, patients and their attendants were panicked though. Thursday, a patch of plaster had fallen off the ceiling of the OT complex of the super specialty block.

Senior official of MKCG visited the mishap site and arranged for the repair work. The building has been constructed at a cost of ₹150 crore.

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. PWDK-15/2022-23
No. G2/6660, Dt. 03.09.2022

No. B-569: e-mail: eepwdkeonjhar@yahoo.com

1	No. of the work	03 Nos. Building Work and 1 No. Electrical Installation work.
2	Estimated cost	From Rs. 8.78 Lakh to Rs. 48.80 Lakh
3	Period of completion	3 (Three) to 6 (Six) Calendar Months
4	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	From 10.00 Hr of 13.09.2022 to 17.00 Hr of 22.09.2022
5	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	17.00 Hr of 22.09.2022
6	Date of opening of Bid from	11.30 Hr of 23.09.2022
7	Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Division, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Sd./Superintending Engineer, Keonjhar
OIPR-34004/11/0004/2223 (R&B) Division, Keonjhar

ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର (ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରା ଓ ଗୃହ) ବିଭାଗ ନଂ.-୪, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର
Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Bhubaneswar (R & B) Division No. IV,
Nirman Soudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar
E-mail ID- eernb4bbs@gmail.com, Tel - (0674)-2390245
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement

No. B-560:-
Bid Identification No.- C.C. (R&B) - 04
e - Procurement Notice No.23 of 2022-23

1	Name of the Work	9 Nos. Road Work
2	Total No of works	9 Nos. Road Work
3	Estimated Cost	Rs. 8,28,927.00 & Rs. 16,97,723.00
4	Class of Contractor	D & C Class
5	Period of Completion	1 (One) Calendar Month for each work.
6	Type of Tender	Single Cover System
7	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	From Dt.13.09.2022 to 17.30 hrs of Dt.22.09.2022
8	Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids in the Portal	Dt.22.09.2022 up to 17.30 hrs
9	Opening of Bid through online	Dt.23.09.2022 at 11.30-AM onwards
10	Name & Address of the Officer inviting Bid	Er. SK. Nasrulla, Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No. IV, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in
The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to reject / cancel / modify the tender at any time without assigning any reason therefor.
N.B: Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, BBSR (R&B) Division No. IV, BBSR
OIPR-34135/11/0015/2223

M/S OM SARALA SECURITY SERVICE PVT. LTD.
Shop No.36, Ganesh Market, S.T.I. Chowk, Rourkela,
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No. OSPL/625/22-23/ Dated: 05/09/2022

APPOINTMENT
Applications are invited from interested candidates for engagement of WDT (Livelihood, Engineering, Social and Micro Enterprises). Monthly remuneration ₹ 20,000.00 inclusive of all (as applicable). For details regarding posts, age, requisite qualification as well as for application form please visit website (<https://www.saralasecurity.com>). Eligible candidates may submit their applications in the prescribed proforma with copies of requisite qualifications (self-attested) by Registered Post/Speed Post by hand super scribing "Application for engagement as WDT" to above address within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of advertisement.
Sd./ Director

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-551
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION, NO. - I, BERHAMPUR
Phone/Fax: (0680) 2233683, e-mail: eernb1_bam@yahoo.com

"e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. EE R&B Divn. No. I Bam 41/2022-23
Lr. No. 8925 Dtd.: 06.09.2022

Name of Work	: Building Works
No. of Works	: 3 (Three) Nos.
Estimated Cost	: Approximately Rs. 35.56 to Rs. 47.16 lakh
Period of Completion	: Four Calendar Months
Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 hours of 17.09.2022 to 16.00 hours of 27.09.2022
Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Upto 16.00 hours of 27.09.2022
Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No. I, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./ Executive Engineer
Ganjam (R&B) Division No. I, Berhampur
OIPR-34109/11/0013/2223



The Unknown is not the Unknownable; it need not remain the unknown for us, unless we choose ignorance or persist in our first limitations.

SRI AUROBINDO



Uneasy Vibes

This one went down to the wire. Until the last moment, no one was sure whether UP's Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi would get an extension or be allowed to superannuate. The radio silence on the issue from both the Yogi Adityanath camp and the Centre ensured that rumours kept swirling. Finally, Awasthi was allowed to retire, and senior IAS officer Sanjay Prasad has been given additional charge of the state Home Department. Also, as a corollary to the ongoing churn and perhaps as an attempt to 'tame' the babus, the Yogi government has transferred 16 senior IAS officers, including controversial Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad.

While often discussed in quiet conversations, the Awasthi episode has once again brought the uneasy Centre-UP government equation to the fore. Most observers would have expected Awasthi, who was known as a confidante of Chief Minister Adityanath, to stay on, but it seems the Centre did not process his file and kept it pending until it was too late.

The UP-Centre creeps in the woodwork are now clearly revealing signs of strain. The normally subterranean tussle between the two power centres has resurfaced. And no surprise, it has hit the babu kingdoms that both Yogi and the Centre need and use. Whether it is an internecine war confined to UP is unknown, but the Awasthi saga bears the telltale signs of a border skirmish. We await further developments on this front.

An exceptional choice

The Modi sarkar is hoping that private sector talent will help create a competent civil service with the aim of effective and efficient public service delivery. For that noble end, former Tata Consultancy Services vice-chairman S Ramadorai is being brought in to chair the Karmayogi Bharat, the government programme for capacity building in the civil services. In other words, the government wants to mould babus into karma yogis, rooted in the Indian ethos.

Karmayogi Bharat owns, manages and maintains the digital platform iGOT Karmayogi on behalf of the government for the implementation of the Mission Karmayogi

In Ramadorai the Modi sarkar has made an exceptional choice to head this programme. Building institutions is what the formidable ex-Tata honcho knows best among his other qualities. Further, he has an inside view of government, having been the advisor to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the National Council on Skill Development, holding the rank equivalent of a cabinet minister. His expertise in economics, leadership and governance could prove useful provided babus are open to imbibing the wisdom of a 'non-babu'!



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Sansad TV CEO goes

Sansad TV CEO Ravi Capoor has been relieved of his duties at the end of his tenure, which surprised many observers. It was widely assumed that as in the case of Rajya Sabha secretary general PC Mody whose term was recently extended, Capoor too may get an extension. Utpal Kumar Singh, who is secretary general of the Lok Sabha has been asked to manage Sansad TV as an additional responsibility.

But the final word on Capoor's career is yet to be written, say some. Apparently, the buzz is that he is likely to be named as the next CEO of Prasar Bharati, which has been functioning under an ad hoc arrangement since the tenure of its CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati ended two months ago. And if rumours of a proposed merger of Sansad TV and Doordarshan under the Prasar Bharati have any substance, it would give Capoor a good chance to head the public broadcaster.

Capoor, a retired IAS officer, was appointed CEO of Sansad TV in March last year after the decision to merge Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV.

Of course, nothing is certain about the course the government will eventually adopt, but it may be premature to write off Capoor from the list of potential candidates. His hat is still in the ring.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

Friendship is the purest love. It is the highest form of Love where nothing is asked for, no condition, where one simply enjoys giving.

OSHO

Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The soul is healed by being with children.

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

WORDSWORTH

Alexipharmic

It means "having the quality or nature of an antidote to poison." The word was introduced into English in the seventeenth century in the now obsolete form alexipharmac, a noun meaning "an antidote against poison." This comes directly from a Greek word which is a compound of alexein, "to ward off", and pharmakon, "poison". This word alexipharmac was so often used attributively that users came to think it was an adjective, and so decided it ought to be spelled with the -ic ending instead. The Greek prefix alexi- is rare in English, turning up only in words such as alexipyretic, "helping against fever"; alexiteric, "having the power to ward off contagion"; and alexin, an obsolete word for what is now called a complement, a system of proteins in the blood, particularly one which guards against infection. Pharmakon could mean a drug as well as a poison (a disturbing equation of ideas to the modern mind), and is much more familiar as the origin of our words in pharmaco- such as pharmacology.

Yclept

Once this was the standard way of forming the past participle of the verb clepe, to call (or, more strictly, its Old English precursor, cleopian). For the past few hundred years it has only turned up as a deliberately archaic form, mostly in poetry, or as light relief. It surfaces occasionally as ponderous humour in journalistic pieces, as here in the Jerusalem Post in 1997 (the name of the writer has been suppressed to protect the guilty): "The caption under the photo of the unfortunately yclept basketball player just makes matters worse: 'David Putz dribbles away...'. Such poppings-up are frequent enough that the word appears in most dictionaries today, even though it died out in the north of England about 1200 and lingered in the south and east only a little longer. It has been outside the mainstream of English for so long that the person credited with popularising it again (Gavin Douglas, a Scots poet and divine), wrote around the end of the fifteenth century. The initial y was once the standard way of marking the past participle: yclensed, yfastened, ypunched, and dozens of others. It was the Old English equivalent of a form which still exists, for example, as ge- in modern German. Advice to budding writers: best avoided!

LOL

Installing a Carpet

A carpet layer had just finished installing carpet for a lady. He stepped out for a smoke, only to realise he'd lost his cigarettes. In the middle of the room, under the carpet, was a bump. "No sense pulling up the entire floor



for one pack of smokes," he said to himself. He proceeded to get out his hammer and flattened the hump. As he was cleaning up, the lady came in. "Here," she said, handing him his pack of cigarettes. "I found them in the hallway." "Now," she said, "if only I could find my parakeet."



Sagameel Sinha

DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL, HAS IN FACT, IN THE PAST MONTHS INCREASED HIS VISITS TO THE STATE, LAYING THE IMPORTANCE THE PARTY ATTACHES TO GUJARAT

FOCUS GUJARAT POLLS

WILL AAP MAKE A DENT?

Gradually the political temperature is rising in the western state of Gujarat. In the last three decades, the political contest there has often been bipolar with BJP and Congress contesting against each other. This time, however, it changes into a triangular battle with the entry of AAP which has already declared its candidates for 29 seats for the 182 Assembly segments.

In national politics, Gujarat, the home state of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, is also known as the laboratory of BJP. The Assembly election in BJP's strongest bastion would take place at a time when the Opposition has perhaps found a glimmer of hope of defeating Modi in the big battle of 2024, following JD(U) supremo and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar breaking its alliance with the BJP and sending strong signals of being on its side. Plus, Congress has launched 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir with Rahul Gandhi playing the Sardar Patel card to woo the voters. However, what comes as a surprise is that the yatra's route doesn't include Gujarat!

Since the 1995 Assembly elections, BJP's tally had never come below 100. However, it happened in the 2017 polls, when it managed to win only 99 seats whereas the Congress increased its tally to 77. In terms of vote percentage, the BJP was then ahead of the grand old party by almost 8 per cent. It was believed then that the agrarian crisis was one of the main reasons for BJP's tally decline. This time too, a significant section of political analysts are predicting that the agrarian crisis is going to be one of the main factors in the elections and believe the challenge is big. Political analysts also view that the present state Congress doesn't have the power to challenge the BJP as it did then. Out of the three youth leaders that the grand old party banked



BJP is under pressure not only to retain its bastion, but win with an impressive tally to send another strong signal for 2024 polls

upon in 2017, the OBC face Alpesh Thakore and Patidar face Hardik Patel have already left and joined the BJP. Only Jignesh Mevani, the party's Dalit face, remains with it.

The Patidar agitation too has cooled down. But this is not the only change. Back in 2017, there was no Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, the scheme started by the Modi government in 2018. This scheme gives Rs 6,000 annually to the farmers in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000. Back in April 2020, the Gujarat government had claimed of giving money as part of the scheme to over 40 lakh farmers. The agrarian crisis is a real issue, but it would be silly to ignore the impact of the PM-Kisan Scheme among the farmers.

At the same time, the BJP has to start planning on countering AAP's entry into the electoral arena. The AAP is trying to lure the voters with its tried and tested formula of free electricity and quality education along with women-oriented schemes. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal,

has in fact, in the past months increased his visits to the state, laying the importance the party attaches to Gujarat. More so, after it won handsomely in the northern state of Punjab this year.

In fact, AAP is also eyeing the Gujarat polls to raise its status from a state to a National party. Currently, it has its presence only in three States - Delhi, Punjab and Goa and requires opening its account in a fourth, to move a step further. To get state party status, it will need 6 per cent vote or has to win at least three seats (2 per cent of Assembly seats). The party has already allied with the Bharatiya Tribal Party, which was an ally of the Congress in the last Assembly elections and had won two seats. Tribals account for around 16 per cent of the state population.

The main Opposition Congress is completely in disarray. Since the last elections, it has been hit badly by defections of its MLAs and leaders. Recently, the party got a jolt when Gujarat Youth Congress President Vishwanathsinh Vaghela

resigned from the post, alleging allotment of posts in exchange for money and alleged control of the Gandhi family in the party. It is expected that AAP is going to eat into a section of Congress' votes.

But its success will depend on its ability to convert these votes into seats and a good vote share. For this, it is not only banking on anti-BJP votes, but is targeting the BJP votes. Kejriwal has been trying to portray the AAP as a true nationalist party, and along with the slogan of free electricity, quality education and women-oriented schemes seeks to wean away a section of dissatisfied BJP's votes.

However, the BJP can claim a lot to offer to the electorate. In 2020, the state government started the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana to provide 16 hours of power supply to farmers. Along with that, there are important welfare schemes of the Modi government like Ayushman Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, Janushadhi scheme and Har Ghar Jal campaign. Thus, it can well counter AAP's basket of welfare schemes, and that too some which have been successful and few focussing on the women voters.

The main challenger this time for the BJP appears to be the 24-year-old long anti-incumbency, though it has tried to counter it. Last year it replaced the entire Cabinet led by then Chief Minister Vijay Rupani with that of Bhupendra Patel, a leader from the influential Patidar community. Indeed, BJP is under pressure not only to retain its bastion, but win with an impressive tally to send another strong signal for 2024 polls. Despite factors such as price rise, unemployment and agrarian distress, it does as of now seem to be ahead in the race with its welfare schemes, strong organisation and of course the Modi card. The big question is whether AAP will make a dent? Also, it remains to be seen whether it can fulfil its national dream through Gujarat.

SPECTRUM SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

Distorted perception can play havoc

Birth of a child in the household is marked with bangs, much fanfare and rejoicing. It is believed to augur well for the family, and why not! Ushering in of a new life not only heralds the perpetuity of a lineage but also conjures infinite speculations and possibilities for the posterity. Yet a day comes when a few amongst us find themselves mired in loneliness, checkmated and in an unredeemable plight. Disabled to see alternative doors open, the nonplussed fellow puts an end to the life. What specific conditions predispose one to take this brazen, immoral, heinous step, also spreading an anti-life message all around: unhealthy upbringing, a sordid or diseased mindset, or a frail social rubric?

Almost daily we learn about several suicides, and many times such attempts involving all segments of population. Last three days headlines inform about two deaths from Hyderabad and Kanpur IITs; suicide by a CBI officer in Delhi by hanging and a data entry operator by jumping off Income Tax Office building committing suicide; a police constable in Ahmadabad along with his wife and two-year kid jumping from 12th floor apartment; an aspirant for medical seat hanging for low marks in NEET in Jabalpur; a seer of Guru Madiwaleshwara Mutt in Karnataka ending his life. The list

is very long. Due to stigma associated with the sordid act far more cases of actual and attempted suicides occur than are reported. Political considerations are among the emerging causes of saying 'No' to life. Bank loans are sanctioned and disbursed under political pressure to ineligible parties and consequences have been fatal for the concerned official. Recent revelations of arbitrary public appointments in Uttarakhand and elsewhere have demoralising impact on the serious students who had been toiling day & night; the victims can develop depression and generate suicidal thoughts. It does not occur to one, as Phil Donahue said, "Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem".

Failure in academic or competitive examinations or in love, routine domestic skirmishes especially between the newly-wed lady and her in-laws constitute the classical causes of suicide. The other category is of those suffering the pangs of terminal illness, undergoing depression or other psychiatric illnesses. According to one school of thought a person unable to bear the intense pain of an incurable, terminal illness should be allowed to die in peace. Under physician-assisted suicide, legalised in Switzerland since 2010, the patient is facilitated to die by intake of liquid medications. Euthanasia, the practice of killing someone

without pain, is legal in seven countries: Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand and Spain.

The key to keep negative, depressing or suicidal thought at bay is maintaining one's poise by consciously focusing on healthy, vibrant events and circumstances, and accepting what cannot be changed and adopting a conciliatory attitude existing conditions about which we cannot do anything. Dissatisfaction with the present circumstances, relationships, assets and greed lead to depressive thoughts. Staying positive is a matter of deliberate decision. Mind that many others are envious of the position you are in, it has been their coveted dream over years. Difficulty with most people is lack of clarity about what they seek in life. "If you ask people what they've always wanted to do, most people haven't done it" said Angelina Jolie. In the absence of a clear vision, and what one wants from the world and life, one shall only grope one's way and with passage of years undergo ennui.

Not many of us are of a frame robust enough to accept the setbacks of life and remain unshaken like stoics do. So, they need to have a certain agenda in life to keep them engaged and derive satisfaction from doing something meaningful and constructive. Those without specific agenda in life are more

at risk of suicides. A purpose in life keeps people inspired and motivated. Take the case of a retired person. Going almost on errands like kitchen gardening, listening to spiritual discourses, providing voluntary service at religious places or orphanages on a regular basis - not necessarily a remunerative activity - provides one a rationale to leave the bed, take bath and breakfast and dress up in a timely manner. Physical exertion and movement keeps the mind active. On the other hand, one without a purpose is likely to engage in gossip mongering and negative behaviour. Staying on toes means a vibrant life with little chance of getting into desperation, rather cheering the other person in depressed mode. We need such persons to help those tending towards depression and suicidal thoughts.

So sad that the suicides in India, pegged at 1, 64, 033 in 2021 is likely to scale up unless immediate measures are undertaken to curb the trend. Each day is a precious gift to those surviving. Let us make the best of it by living without inhibitions, sharing our concerns and assets with others in need and transmitting the positive messages around.

Author is Delhi-based journalist & blogger and writes on social, health and spiritual issues.



Harish Barthwal

THOSE WITH HARDLY ANYONE TO SHARE THEIR CONCERNS ARE AT GREATER RISK OF ENDING THEIR LIFE. THE SOCIETY SHOULD CREATE MODALITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE SO THAT NO HUMAN ASSETS ARE LOST

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Introspection essential

Sir, India's unceremonious ouster from the Asia Cup T20 calls for serious introspection on the part of all stakeholders. Post mortem of defeats is easy and convenient, but it has to be done because cricket is a religion in India, and players are highly admired and paid well. Especially when the T20 World Cup in Australia is little more than a month away, dissection of reasons for India's failure to reach the finals at the UAE is imperative. The much talked about selection of Rishabh Pant in place of Dinesh Karthik for India's matches against Pakistan and Sri Lanka needs a thorough debate. Rishabh is an outstanding player with oodles of talent at his disposal. But the young man needs time to get into a groove, and then explode. Also, poor catching, and fielding, cost the team dearly although the absence of a key player like Ravindra Jadeja after the group stage was badly felt. Though the captain is as good as his team, Rohit Sharma's insipid and languid style did precious little to enthrust the team.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Let's prevent suicides

Sir, Today is Suicide Prevention Day. Often the inability of youth to open up their bottled-up feelings to the right person, who can give timely and correct advice, makes them take some extreme steps. Teachers and parents should be trained to spot in students, the warning signs like depression, lack of enthusiasm, sudden withdrawal from friends, their falling grades, low self-esteem and most importantly devote time to listen to their fears and anxieties. Parents should identify the natural flair of children and allow them to pursue that, instead of pushing them to do things they dislike and try to live their own unrealised dreams through their children by forcing them to many coaching classes and expecting return on investment like stock market!

TS Karthik, CHENNAI

Bidding farewell

Sir, As the world absorbed the shock of Queen Elizabeth II's sudden death, people began bringing bouquets of flowers to the British Consulate all over the world. As a young boy of 11 years, I got a glimpse of the Queen as our school children were taken to Corporation Stadium near Ripon Building in Chennai, when the Queen was given a civic reception. She arrived at the stadium in motorcade wearing a blue frock amid thunderous cheers in the year 1961. Late Kamaraj was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state then. That was a thrilling experience.

CK Subramaniam, CHENNAI

national



The Railways has drawn up a blueprint to become a wheels exporter and floated a tender on Friday to build a plant which would manufacture at least 80,000 wheels every year

GRIM SITUATION

The flood situation remained grim in certain parts of north Karnataka following torrential rains. Many rivers, rivulets and streams were in spate as water was released from the Tungbhadra Dam, sources said



of the day quote

The 'daam' (price) of every 'kaam' (work) was already fixed. The racket (operating during the previous governments) had made the entire system hollow, by acting like a weevil. The results of this were known to everyone, and people of UP had to pay the price for it

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

The BJP government has an evil intent on madrasas in Uttar Pradesh. The attempts to interfere in the private madrasas, which run on donations by the community, in the name of survey is inappropriate. They should focus on improving the condition of the government and government-aided madrasas

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

After my resignation letter, I maintained a dignified silence for four days but when Sonia Gandhi and Rahul kept attacking at me, I was left with no other option but to make my point, as my religion and ethics of politics give you the right to protect yourself, when you are attacked

GHULAM NABI AZAD | FORMER J&K CM

SHORT TAKES

Anubrata acquitted

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal and 13 others were acquitted Friday in a blast case at Mangalkot in Birbhum district in 2010 by an MP/MLA court here. Following his acquittal, Mondal claimed that he had been framed in the case. The judge of the MP/MLA court at Bidhanagar here acquitted Mondal, TMC leader from Birbhum, and the 13 other accused for want of evidence.

Body recovered

Thane: The body of a four-year-old boy, who was washed away in a flooded nullah at Kalwa in Thane city of Maharashtra, was recovered on Friday, an official said. The boy, Aditya Mourya, had got washed away in the swollen water body around 7.30 pm on Thursday from Bhaskar Nagar area of Kalwa, he said. The body of the minor was found in the nullah near Mafatnal company around 9 am by a team of local fire brigade personnel and the Regional Disaster Management Cell (RDMC) of the Thane civic body, said Avinash Sawant, chief of the cell.

Student faints

Deoghar/ Dumka: A class 9 student of a private school in Jharkhand's Deoghar district was allegedly beaten and made to stand in the scorching sun by a non-teaching staff of the educational institute, police said Friday. The mother of the 15-year-old boy lodged an FIR in this regard at Rikhiya police station and alleged that her son fell unconscious while standing in the scorching sun. The school management, however, denied the allegation. "On the complaint of the mother, an FIR has been lodged and search operation is on for the non-teaching staff," Deoghar, Superintendent of Police (SP) Subhash Chandra Jat said.

Four dead

New Tehri (Uttarakhand): Four people headed for Badrinath died and two more were injured after their car fell into a 50-metre-deep gorge here, police said Friday. The accident took place near Shree Ram Tapasthali Ashram, Brahmapuri, in Tehri district, Muni-ki-Reti police station SHO Ritesh Shah said. The vehicle was on its way to the Himalayan shrine from Haridwar, he added. Besides the driver, there were six people in the car at the time of the accident, he added.

BILKIS BANO CASE

SC to hear pleas after three weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The Supreme Court Friday said it will hear after three weeks the pleas challenging the remission of sentence and release of 11 convicts in the 2002 Bilkis Bano gang-rape case and murder of her seven family members during the Gujarat riots.

The apex court asked the counsel for the Gujarat government to place before it the relevant records within two weeks. The matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and B V Nagarathna.

On August 25, the top court had sought responses from the Centre and the Gujarat government to a petition challenging the remission granted to the 11 convicts in the case. The court had issued notice on a plea filed by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revathi Laul and activist Roop Rekha Rani. It had asked the petitioners to implead the 11 convicted persons, who have been granted remission, as parties in the matter. TMC MP Mahua Moitra has also filed a separate plea in the top court challenging the grant of remission and her petition was also listed for hearing on Friday.

During the hearing, advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for one of the 11 convicts, said the petitioners have on Thursday filed an application to implead these persons as respondents.

"Notices have to go to the impleaded respondents," he said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, said they have complied with the apex court's earlier direction.

"Why you have filed an application for adjournment?" the bench asked Malhotra, who said notices have to go to the impleaded respondents and they have to file their replies. He said multiple petitions have been filed in the matter. "I am against this impleadment business in criminal matter," he said, while objecting to the locus of



The apex court asked the counsel for the Gujarat government to place before it the relevant records within two weeks

August 25, the top court had sought responses from the Centre and the Gujarat government to a petition challenging the remission granted to the 11 convicts in the case

the petitioners. The bench told Malhotra that 11 persons have been impleaded as party respondents in the lead matter and he can accept notices on their behalf.

Malhotra said he has been appearing for only one of them and he would have to take instructions. The bench said copy of the petitions be served to him as well as the counsel for the state.

Malhotra said issuance of notice would not be necessary in the other petitions as they are asking for the same thing. The bench asked when the line and cause of action was the same, why multiple pleas have been filed. One of the advocates, who was appearing for the petitioners in a separate plea filed in the matter, said the prayers in their petition are slightly different.

The bench asked the state's counsel to file the relevant records within two weeks and said rejoinder, if any, be submitted within one week thereafter. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five-month pregnant when she was gangraped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident.

Kejriwal meets LG first time since raids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday met V K Saxena for the first time since the CBI raid at Manish Sisodia's residence and said whatever happened was "unfortunate" while hoping the situation would improve.

Amid the AAP's tussle with the lieutenant governor, Kejriwal had skipped the previous three weekly meetings, held every Friday, including one on August 19 when Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia's residence was raided.

The raid was conducted in connection with the alleged irregularities in the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. LG Saxena had recommended a CBI probe into the implementation of the liquor policy. "Whatever happened was unfortunate. I hope the situation will improve. We had a discussion in a very cordial atmosphere," Kejriwal told reporters after the meeting.

He said the Friday meetings in the last few weeks could not take place as he was out of Delhi "by chance". "The meeting today was



very good... Several issues were discussed. I requested him to improve MCD work together as filth in the city has become a big issue. I also offered the Delhi government's help in removing garbage dumps that will take years with the present speed of work," he said.

The meeting lasted nearly 40 minutes. The relation between the AAP government in Delhi and the LG has worsened after the CBI probe into the liquor policy was recommended. AAP leaders levelled charges of corruption against Saxena during his tenure as chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries

Whatever happened was unfortunate. I hope the situation will improve. We had a discussion in a very cordial atmosphere

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

Security lapse at Assam CM's rally



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 9: Tension prevailed during the Ganesh procession at MJ Market in Hyderabad Friday when a Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leader confronted Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on the stage and tried to dislodge the mic.

A leader of Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samiti (BGUS) was addressing the gathering when a local TRS leader stepped on to the stage and confronted Sarma, taking objection to the remarks he made

earlier about Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao, popularly known as KCR.

The TRS leader, later identified as Nand Kishore, also tried to dislodge the mic. But BGUS leaders caught hold of the TRS leader and whisked him away. The incident led to tension in the area, which was completely filled with devotees participating in the annual procession. Raising slogans against each other, the BJP and TRS workers nearly came to clashes.

However, the police intervened to defuse the situation. Later, Kishore

was arrested and taken to the police station. The TRS leader was angry over certain remarks made earlier by the Assam Chief Minister against KCR and his family.

He alleged that Sarma was called to create hatred among people. He said the BJP and BGUS leaders are trying to disrupt communal harmony in Hyderabad. BJP MLA E. Rajender condemned the attempt to disrupt Sarma's speech. He alleged that the TRS is desperate due to fear of defeat in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Every year, BGUS invites leaders of the BJP, RSS or other right-wing groups for delivering the speech at MJ Market, where a special stage is erected to welcome Ganesh idols being carried to Hussain Sagar lake for immersion.

Before the incident, the area witnessed some mild tension when BJP leaders and workers demanded that a flexi with pictures of KCR and state minister Srinivas Yadav be removed.

Commission (KVIC).

Taking umbrage over the corruption charge, the LG launched a direct attack on Kejriwal in a series of tweets on September 1, accusing him of resorting to "diversionary tactics and false accusations" out of "desperation".

Breaking his silence on the corruption allegation, the LG had said various issues including "grave anomalies" in the Excise Policy 2021-22 were flagged by him but "unfortunately" the response he received was in the form of "subterfuge" and "personal attack" on him.

The LG also sent legal notices to several AAP leaders, including Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, MLAs Atishi, Durgesh Pathak and Saurabh Bhardwaj. Responding to the legal action, Kejriwal had said that those in public life should be ready for any probe into allegations against them.

The chief minister, after his first meeting with Saxena who had taken charge as Lt Governor of Delhi in May, had said that they will meet at 4 pm every Friday to discuss various issues related to Delhi for coordination.

BJP appoints party's in-charges for states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The BJP Friday drafted a number of senior leaders, including former chief ministers Vijay Rupani and Biplab Kumar Deb besides former Union ministers Prakash Javadekar and Mahesh Sharma, into organisational work and made them as in-charges of party affairs in different states.

The BJP also named its general secretary Vinod Tawde as its new in-charge for Bihar, where the party recently lost power after JD(U) snapped ties with it. Mangal Pandey, its former Bihar minister, will look after West Bengal. Harish Dwivedi will continue to be co-in-charge for Bihar and the party's IT cell head Amit Malviya for West Bengal.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra has been given an important organisational responsibility. He has been named coordinator for eight northeastern states and party's national secretary Rituraj Sinha as joint-coordinator, the BJP said in a statement.

The appointments hold significance as a large number of senior leaders, who had no organisational post currently, have now been given new responsibilities. Some others like Patra's stature have been elevated in the party. Rupani will be in-charge for Punjab and Chandigarh, Deb for Haryana and Javadekar will look after party work in Kerala.

Incidentally, both Gujarat and Tripura are heading for assembly polls and the party's decision to give new responsibilities to Rupani and Deb may have been driven by the BJP's desire to keep its affairs in order in their home states.

Senior party leader and member of its central election committee Om Mathur will be in-charge of the party's affairs in Chhattisgarh and its former Uttar Pradesh unit president Laxmikant Bajpai will look after the work in Jharkhand.

Former Union minister and party MP Mahesh Sharma has been made in-charge of Tripura, another MP Vinod Sonkar will look after party work in two Union territories - Dadra Nagra Haveli and Daman Diu. Recently elected Rajya Sabha member of BJP Radha Mohan Agarwal will be its incharge for Lakshadweep.

Kunal Kamra's show cancelled amid threats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, Sept 9: A bar here cancelled shows by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra after they threatened of protest by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal.

Kamra was scheduled to perform on September 17 and 18 at Studio Xo Bar in Sector 29. The VHP and Bajrang Dal Friday submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav through Tehsildar demanding cancellation of the show.

The members of the Hindu right wing bodies said if the show is not cancelled, they will hold a protest against it.

The show is likely to create tension in the city, they added. "Comedian Kunal Kamra makes fun of Hindu gods and goddesses in his show, which is quite wrong. In such a situation, due to the show being held in the city, tension can arise, we request it be cancelled at the earliest or we will protest," read the memorandum.



Left Front supporters raise slogans during a protest rally against the West Bengal Government and TMC leaders who are accused in various scams in Kolkata

With Queen's death, Twitterati wants Kohinoor's return

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The death of Britain's longest-reigning monarch Queen Elizabeth II has rekindled social media chatter demanding the return of the Kohinoor diamond to India.

With her son Prince Charles succeeding to the throne, the 105-carat diamond, which is steeped in history, will go to his wife Duchess Cornwall Camilla, who has now become Queen consort. Kohinoor, which means 'Mountain of Light', is a large, colourless diamond that was found in southern India in the early 14th century. The precious gem, which came into British hands during the colonial era, is the subject of a historic ownership

dispute and is claimed by at least four countries, including India.

Some Twitter users were serious in their demand for the return of the Kohinoor diamond, while others had a humorous take on the issue. A Twitter user posted a clip from the Bollywood film 'Dhoom 2' in which the character played by Hrithik Roshan steals a diamond from a running train.

"Hrithik Roshan on the way to get back our heera, moti, Kohinoor from the British Museum to India" the user posted. Another user @gomathil17183538 alleged that Queen Elizabeth II was an "active participant in colonialism". "Now can we get our Kohinoor back? A reminder that Queen Elizabeth is not a remnant of colonial times. She



was an active participant in colonialism." Gomathi said.

Asish Raz tweeted, "Sadly, the queen passed away. Now, can we expect our Kohinoor back?" The Kohinoor diamond was "surrendered" by the Maharaja of Lahore

to the then Queen of England and "not handed over" to the British nearly 170 years ago, the Archaeological Survey of India replied to an RTI query a few years ago.

However, the Indian government's stand in the Supreme Court

was that the diamond, estimated to cost over USD 200 million, was neither stolen nor "forcibly" taken by British rulers but given to East India Company by erstwhile rulers of Punjab.

In the book 'An Era of Darkness', Shashi Tharoor noted that it was once touted to be the world's largest diamond, weighing 793 carats or 158.6 grams. The diamond is believed to have been first mined near Guntur in Andhra Pradesh in the thirteenth century. From its original glory of 158 carats, the diamond has been whittled down to its present 105 carats form over the centuries.

He notes the popular jewel's journey through royal hands as it passed from the Kakatiyas in the Deccan

to Delhi Sultan Alauddin Khilji and then to the Mughal empire. It reached Afghanistan with Persian invader Nadir Shah.

Legend has it that it was Nadir Shah who named the diamond the Kohinoor. It passed through different dynasties before landing in the possession of the Sikh Maharaja of Punjab, Ranjit Singh, in 1809, Tharoor noted.

He claims that Ranjit Singh's successor could not hold on to his kingdom and was defeated by the British in two wars. "That was when the Kohinoor fell into British hands," Tharoor penned a poignant argument in favour of the diamond's return to India and made critical remarks against the UK's colonial history.



ASSAM MADRASSA DEMOLITION

Villagers say cops instructed them; force denies allegation

According to the police, the Darogar Alga madrasa and a read house on its premises were demolished Tuesday by the villagers themselves after the emergence of "suspected jihadi links" with its two teachers, who were reportedly Bangladeshis



The demolished madrasa at Darogar Alga village in Goalpara district PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Darogar Alga (Assam), Sept 9: In what may spark a controversy, villagers of Darogar Alga char in Assam's Goalpara district alleged that they tore down a madrasa on instruction given indirectly by the police, a charge which the superintendent of police dismissed as baseless.

The locals asserted that the communication was sent to a fellow villager having connections in the force and it was he who asked people to pull down the structure. The police, however, denied the charge saying they were only investigating a case of alleged terror links of two persons, now absconding, who were teaching at the seminary.

"I was among those who pulled down the two structures. I was working in my jute field on the riverside when Shukur Ali (a villager) called me to the madrasa compound. He asked me and five-six others to help him demolish them," Rahim Badshah, a local, told PTI here.

Ali is a self-proclaimed BJP worker in the sandbank. His motorcycle carries a lotus (BJP party symbol) sticker. Several such stickers are also visible on the walls of his residence. "When I asked Ali why we should demolish the madrasa, he said that SP (superintendent of police) and DSP (deputy superintendent of police) sirs have asked us to do so. When I reached the madrasa compound, the media were already there," Badshah claimed. Several other villagers corroborated Badshah's assertion. When asked, Ali accepted that the media was invited beforehand to cover the demolition and the structures were pulled down in front of them. However, he was silent on the police asking him to demolish the madrasa.

When approached for his comment, Goalpara Superintendent of Police V Rakesh Reddy said the force had "absolutely no role" in bringing down the seminary and the adjacent temporary one-

room house. "From our side, there was no communication for the villagers saying that they proceed with it (demolition). Had it been planned, the district administration would have taken the steps accordingly," Reddy told PTI over the phone. Reddy said that the villagers never thought the madrasa teachers who had left suddenly had links with terror outfits.

"That the teachers were Al-Qaeda jihadis was a piece of shocking news for them. We are only investigating that case. We visited the place many times before to collect statements of the villagers," he said.

On Monday evening, Ali had reportedly called a few village elders at the madrasa compound and claimed that the DSP of Goalpara had sought demolition of the two structures.

One of the villagers, who attended the gathering, claimed to have recorded the entire conversation on his mobile phone.

Assamese short film in Oscar race

THE FILM TELLS THE STORY OF A MAN WHO BELIEVES THAT HE HAS THE FASTEST HORSE IN THE WORLD AND WANTS IT TO WIN ALL RACES IN THE CITY, BUT WHAT HE ACTUALLY HAS IS NOT A HORSE BUT A DONKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 9: A 15-minute Assamese movie 'Mur Ghurar Duronto Goti' (The Horse From Heaven), has qualified to be sent as an entry for the Oscar Awards in the short film fiction category, its director Maharshi Tuhin Kashyap said.

The film tells the story of a man who believes that he has the fastest horse in the world and wants it to win all races in the city, but what he actually has is not a horse but a donkey.

"Now that we have succeeded in qualifying for the entry, it is a dream come true," the 27-year-old director told PTI.

The film was made as a student project at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata, and recently won the best

film award at the Bengaluru International Short Film Festival (BISFF), an Oscar-qualifying film festival. Unlike feature films, for sending a short film to the Oscars, one has to win a qualified award at an Oscar-qualifying film festival. BISFF is the only festival in India which is qualified to send its winner in the International and Indian competition section for Oscars in the Short Film Fiction category.

"We are happy to announce the Horse from Heaven directed by Maharshi Kashyap is the winner of the Indian competition section at the Bangalore International Short Film Festival 2022 and will qualify as an entry to the Academy short competition section (fiction)," BISFF Festival Director Anand Varadaraj said in a certificate.

The main crew of the film are presently final year SRFTI stu-



dents and the film was shot mostly inside the campus and the institute's studio while some parts were shot in the outskirts of Kolkata.

Kashyap told PTI that as students, they know very little about the grand journey the film has to take now and are hopeful of getting help and guidance from those who are experts.

The director, who has also written the film's script, used Assam's 600-year-old dying story-telling art form 'Ojapali' to narrate his tale.

Ojapali performers tell stories from mythology by singing, dancing, using gestures and humorous

conversations with the audience during their performance.

"I felt that this form can be very interesting to express our story in the film. It is a formal attempt to translate the traditional story-telling form of Ojapali to the cinema," he said. The direct interaction the protagonist has with the audience of the film where songs, monologues and images take the story forward is similar to the way Ojapali performers tell stories, the filmmaker pointed out.

Humour is a major component of Ojapali performers and it is amply evident in the film.

UP TO HAVE DIST COMMITTEES TO BOOST TOURISM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 9: Every district in Uttar Pradesh will now have a District Tourism and Cultural Promotion Council (DTCCPC) in an effort to boost tourism.

While the process has been finalised in 69 of the 75 districts, it will take another week or so for the council to take shape in the remaining ones.



Mukesh Meshram, principal secretary, tourism, culture and religious affairs, said: "The idea behind the initiative is to stir local economies with tourism potential, and also stimulate tourists, pilgrims and investors in unexplored and untapped hotspots. Alongside, this will help in reviving dying art forms, restore locally significant places of interest besides creating jobs for the locals in their own neighbourhood."

The Council, to be headed by the District Magistrate of the respective district, will have district tourism officer, regional tourism officer and officers of the concerned department as its members, said Meshram.

"Together, they will work to identify places of tourist attractions and draw plans with the help of experts for tourism infrastructure as per trending demands and global standards," he said.

The Council will also launch publicity campaigns in coordination with different stakeholders from the travel and hospitality industries to attract tourists from both within the country and abroad as well as investors.

'30-MILE WALK' CHALLENGE

People unite to help elephants

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, Sept 9: People around the world are uniting to help India's elephants through a '30-Mile Walk Challenge'.

The participants are committing to walk a distance of 30 miles in September to help raise funds for rescued Asian elephants receiving medical treatment and care at Wildlife SOS, an Indian wildlife conservation charity!

The challenge was inspired by Laxmi, an elephant rescued by Wildlife SOS from a life of begging in 2013. The young pachyderm was fed sweets and fried foods which led to an adverse amount of weight gain. Laxmi was placed under long-term care at the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre in Mathura, which is jointly run by Wildlife SOS and the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department.

The organisation's veterinarians were worried about her weight adversely affecting her internal organs and limbs, so Laxmi was placed on a nutritious diet plan



The challenge was inspired by Laxmi, an elephant rescued by Wildlife SOS from a life of begging in 2013

and taken on regular walks to ensure she remained fit. Today, Laxmi is living a safer and healthier life with her elephant companions.

The 30-Mile Walk Challenge that began on September 1 already has over 4,000 participants from around the world! As a part of the chal-

enge, participants are joining 'Team Laxmi' wherein they match the 30 miles distance that Laxmi walks in a month while simultaneously donating towards the care of elephants! In the wild, elephants are constantly walking in search of food or water. Wildlife SOS aims to create an environment as close to an elephant's natural habitat. Thus, walks are an integral part of the care provided to the resident elephants at the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre in Mathura.

Throughout the challenge, participants will be receiving regular updates on the miles walked by Laxmi and will get a chance to share their miles on a Facebook page. Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-founder & CEO of Wildlife SOS said, "It is inspiring to see people from all around the world take time out of their day to embark on a walk to support India's elephants. India is the last stronghold of the Asian elephant population and we all must unite to ensure this heritage animal is protected."

40 exotic animals seized in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 9: The Assam Police have seized 40 exotic animals from two West Bengal-bound SUVs at Rangia in Kamrup district and arrested two people, officials said.

Police said that acting on a tip-off, 40 exotic animals, including 19 primates, were seized from two Delhi government-registered SUVs, which were moving from Mizoram and were bound for Siliguri in northern West Bengal.



This was the biggest seizure of smuggled exotic animals in Assam in recent times, the official said, adding that the other animals included two baby wallabies, 13 small turtles, three big tortoises and three exotics birds.

The rare animals are packed in several cages. The detainees, who were driving the two SUVs, told the police that they travelled from Mizoram and were heading for Siliguri to deliver the animals.

'ILL-FITTED' CLOTHES

Court orders tailor in UP to compensate



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bulandshahr, Sept 9: A tailor in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr has been asked by a consumer court to pay more than ₹12,000 in damages to a consumer for stitching 'ill-fitting kurta pyjama' besides additional compensation for mental harassment.

The court has directed tailor Iftikhar Ansari, owner of Silco Tailors, to refund the tailoring charges of ₹720 along with interest, ₹1,500 as the cost of cloth, ₹5,000 as litigation costs, and another ₹5,000 for harassment to the consumer for stitching an 'ill-fitting kurta pyjama'. The case verdict came after four years. The complainant MP Singh, 58, who is currently posted as the District

Information Officer at the collectorate in Bulandshahr, said, "Stitching of a kurta-pyjama set does not take more than ₹200 from a regular shop. However, if I am willing to pay ₹720, I expect quality and it is the responsibility of the tailor to satisfy me. The problem is that when you become established, you tend to outsource your work. I think the bad stitching was a result of that. Besides, the tailor was not willing to admit his mistake. I could have let go of the matter but decided to not do so. When we have a court for the protection of the consumer, then why should we not avail of its benefits?"

Shekhar Verma, Assistant Information Officer at the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, said, "Several notices were served to the accused but he never turned up for the trial, which went on for four years."

However, Ansari, owner of the tailoring showroom, refuted all charges and said, "The verdict came as a surprise to me because I never received any notice."

Criminals to turn police informers in Saharanpur

These informers have been administered the 'oath of good conduct' by police and have pledged not to commit any crime at a recent event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Saharanpur, Sept 9: In a novel experiment, the Saharanpur police in Uttar Pradesh have urged over 900 history-sheeters to turn police informers.

The initiative is a part of the Sankalp scheme that seeks to revive the network of informers.



The 'history-sheeter' tag will be removed from their police records if they exhibit good conduct and in lieu of information they provide under the programme.

These informers have been ad-

ministered the 'oath of good conduct' by police and have pledged not to commit any crime at a recent event. The scheme is the brainchild of Saharanpur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Vipin Tada.

The SSP said, "Electronic surveillance, through which we track criminals, has its limits. People have learnt to dodge such methods. Moreover, it is tough to get information in advance about any suspicious activity. Informers can provide such information from any individual and prevent crimes. We have thus decided to revive the network of informers in the entire district."

Under the scheme, police may stop surveillance on history sheeters who exhibit 'good conduct for the next six months' in lieu of information.

"They will not be driven out of districts during elections, and the police will update records in their data to showcase their changed ways," he said.

Vipin Tada said that a plan to give financial assistance to informers with poor financial back-

ground was a part of the plan.

He said all informers have been apprised about various welfare schemes under which they could get loans to make a new beginning.

Many history-sheeters have over a dozen cases against them and some of them have been acquitted. However, their names still remain in police records as 'history-sheeter'. The new initiative has given them a sigh of relief.

A 28-year-old who has enrolled in the programme said, "The police used to harass me whenever any incident took place around the area where I lived. The SSP has given me hope that I may not be harassed anymore."

He added, "The senior superintendent of police told us to call him if any police personnel bothered us unnecessarily. He assured us that he would listen to our concerns."

BIDDING ADIEU



Devotees carry an idol of Lord Ganesha for immersion on the last day of Ganesh Chaturthi festival near the historic Taj Mahal in Agra, Uttar Pradesh PTI PHOTO

Assam to set up State Research Foundation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 9: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Thursday said that his government will set up a State Research Foundation in line with the National Research Foundation as envisaged in NEP-2020.

The proposed Research Foundation is expected to promote innovative research with quantifiable outcomes for transformational reforms in the education sector; the Chief Minister said at a conference on the imple-

mentation of NEP 2020 in Assam as a follow up of the Varanasi Conclave. The Conference was organised by the Governor's Secretariat in partnership with the Higher Education Department of the state government.

"We are committed to implement NEP 2020 for qualitative improvement of education. The fact that we have earmarked six per cent of the state's GDP for education speaks volume of our intent to develop our human resources..." Sarma said

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said that his government has decided to establish four nano-incubation centres at Bongaigaon, Silchar, Dibrugarh and Tezpur to encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship

national

of the day quote

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II leaves behind a rich legacy of inspired leadership, dignity and graceful magnanimity. Her long reign oversaw the transformation of her country in many ways. My deepest condolences to her family and people of the UK. May her soul rest in peace

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

The floods in Pakistan are a terrible tragedy. My heartfelt sympathies to all the people affected and deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The Delhi government is committed to providing clean air to people and is working on short-term and long-term measures. These measures are being implemented through action plans for summers and winters

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Four trekkers go missing

Shimla: The whereabouts of four trekkers from West Bengal, who went missing two days ago while trekking in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu, remained unknown on Friday and the search for them was stepped up, officials said. Two of the six trekkers and one cook who went missing in the Kullu area reached Wachem, near Malana, on Thursday and informed about the incident, while four were missing, state Disaster Management Department Director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta said. They were on their way to capture Mt Ali Ratni Tibba (5458 m).

3 students killed

Chennai: Three college students drowned Friday after the pick-up van they were travelling in plunged into a 120-feet deep well. The incident occurred at Thondamathur in Coimbatore district. Tamil Nadu fire and rescue department and local police are engaged in the process to lift the vehicle from the well-using cranes. Police said that rash driving could be the reason for the accident.

Two cops injured

Ahmedabad: Two policemen suffered injuries after a gang of bootleggers attacked them with pipes, sticks and pelted stones on a police vehicle in Ahmedabad's Naroda police station area. Both injured jawans were being treated in a government hospital. The attack happened on Thursday night. Assistant Commissioner of Police V.N. Yadav said, "A police team was attacked last night by bootleggers, a case was registered against them. Three teams were formed to search for the accused and they will be arrested soon."

ANDHRA HIGH COURT OKAYS AMARAVATI MAHA PADYATRA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Sept 9: The Andhra Pradesh High Court Friday granted permission to Amaravati farmers for a second Maha Padyatra, scheduled to be launched from here on September 12, to demand development of Amaravati as the state capital.

The court's green signal came hours after the police refused to give the permission for the long march aimed at demanding implementation of High Court orders for development of the state capital.

However, the court has given the nod to the organisers subject to certain conditions. Justice C. Manavendranath Roy directed the police to consider the request made by the farmers and grant them the permission for Maha Padyatra from Amaravati to Arasavalli in Srikakulam district.

The court laid down the condition that not more than 600 people should participate in the march.

It also asked the organisers to seek prior permission for the public meeting to be organised at the end of the long march. The Amaravati Parirakshana Samithi (APS) had approached the High Court, seeking direction to the police to give permission for Maha Padyatra.

The court had taken up the hearing on Thursday but adjourned the hearing to Friday after the state government informed it that the Director General of Police would be passing orders on the application of APS by the end of Thursday.

Director General of Police Rajendranath Reddy issued an order late on Thursday night, denying permission for the march on the ground that there was apprehension of breach of peace.

APS General Secretary Gadde Tirupati Rao received the order from DGP past midnight on Thursday. The DGP recalled that APS organised a padyatra last year from Amaravati to Tirumala. He said though the court had given conditional permission for the padyatra, the conditions were violated.



Bikers during the flagging off ceremony of the Fit India Freedom Moto Ride, a pan-India bike ride of 75 bikers to 75 iconic locations in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

India, China to pull back troops by Sept 12

The ministry's comment came a day after the Indian and Chinese armies announced that they have begun to disengage from the Gogra-Hotsprings Patrolling Point 15, where the two sides have been locked in a standoff for over two years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Beijing, Sep 9: India and China will complete the disengagement process in the Gogra-Hotsprings area in eastern Ladakh by September 12, the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi Friday. The ministry's comment came a day after the Indian and Chinese armies announced that they have begun to disengage from the Gogra-

Hotsprings Patrolling Point 15, where the two sides have been locked in a standoff for over two years.

The announcement of the disengagement of troops came around a week ahead of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Uzbekistan which is expected to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping among other leaders of the grouping.

In Beijing, when asked whether India and China are in communication about a possible Modi-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit to be held in Samarkand on September 15 to 16, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a briefing that she has "no information to offer at this moment."

"We believe the disengagement will be a positive progress and is conducive to peace and tranquillity in the border areas, and China also hopes to work with India to uphold peace and stability," she added. Responding to a question on the



It has been agreed that all temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides will be dismantled and mutually verified. The landforms in the area will be restored to the pre-standoff period by both sides

ARINDAM BAGCHI | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

disengagement process, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said, "It has been agreed that all temporary structures and other allied infrastruc-

ture created in the area by both sides will be dismantled and mutually verified. The landforms in the area will be restored to the pre-standoff period by both sides."

OPS FACTION SEEKS SECURITY

ON JULY 11 DURING THE AIADMK GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT VANAGARAM ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CHENNAI, THERE WAS A CLASH BETWEEN THE SUPPORTERS OF OPS AND EPS IN WHICH MANY WERE HURT AND THE AIADMK HEADQUARTERS WAS RANSACKED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 9: Close on the heels of AIADMK interim general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) visiting the party head-



quarters, the deposed coordinator of the party, O. Panneerselvam (OPS) and leaders close to him on Friday sought police protection to enter the party office.

J.C.D. Prabhakar, a close associate of OPS, has petitioned the Royapettah police station for police protection for his leader and close associates for entering the party headquarters.

In his petition, Prabhakar mentioned that anti-social elements

and rowdies might create nuisance and trigger violence during his visit.

On July 11 during the AIADMK general council meeting held at Vanagaram on the outskirts of Chennai, there was a clash between the supporters of OPS and EPS in which many were hurt and the AIADMK headquarters was ransacked. Complaints were levelled against both OPS and EPS for having instigated the violence.

In the general council meeting held on July 11, OPS and those close to him were expelled from the party and the former approached the Madras High Court to nullify the proceedings of July 11 and to maintain the status quo of June 23 when OPS was coordinator of the party and EPS, joint coordinator.

While a single bench of the Madras high court nullified the proceedings of the July 11 general council, a division bench of the same court set aside the single bench order and allowed to continue with the July 11 proceedings of the General council meeting. This has led to Edappadi K. Palaniswami emerging as the interim general secretary of the party. OPS has moved the Supreme Court against the division bench order of the Madras High Court.

Meanwhile, on Thursday (September 8) Palaniswami entered the party headquarters and levelled serious allegations against Panneerselvam.

Have no confusion in mind, says Rahul



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanyakumari (TN), Sept 9: Keeping cards close to his chest, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday said he has made the decision whether he wants to become the next party president or not and asserted he will give his reasons if he does not contest the upcoming elections.

Rahul Gandhi was asked a slew of questions at a press conference on whether he would assume the mantle of the party president and he repeatedly said he would give an answer if he does not enter the fray, indicating that the likelihood of him sticking to his stance of not taking up party chiefs post is more.

He also said the Bharat Jodo Yatra will help in forging Opposition unity even though that is a separate exercise. It is the responsibility of the entire Opposition to come together and discussions are in progress, he added.

The Kanyakumari-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress began Wednesday. Rahul Gandhi said he is not leading the yatra but is only participating in it. Asked if he would become the Congress president, he said, "Whether I become president or not, this will become very clear when the presidential elections of the Congress party take place." "Wait till that time when that time happens you

3 stolen idols traced to US museums

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 9: The Tamil Nadu Police's Idol Wing traced three bronze idols, stolen from Soundararaja Perumalkovil village temple near Kumbakonam 60 years ago, to museums and auction houses in the US.

On February 12, 2020, Ka Raja, Executive Officer of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department which administers the temple, lodged a complaint with the Idol Wing, complaining that an antique idol of Thirumangai Alwar was stolen from the temple and replaced with a fake one. The executive officer, in the complaint, stated that it was believed that the idol was stolen between 1957 and 1967. The idol was traced to the Ashmolean museum in Oxford and an independent researcher informed the museum that the idol could be a stolen one. Later it was found that the museum had bought the idol at an auction by Sotheby's in London for 850 pounds from collector, J.R. Belmont.

Mission to clean Ganga draws people to bid for gifts

'Namami Gange' mission, an integrated conservation mission for effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of the Ganga, was launched by the Modi government after it came to power in 2014

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



This is what links the likes of K Ranganatha Achar, a chartered accountant in Udipi, and Sanjeev Jain, a doctor practising in Raipur, both of whom have successfully bought some of the gifts to Modi, in the belief that this will help

clean the holy river. Drinking water is a big issue globally, and there is no bigger source for this in India than the Ganga river, Jain said, asserting there is no one better than Modi to do the job. He has been purchasing

various items through e-auction since 2019 and has spent nearly Rs 3 lakh. He bought a statue of Lord Vishnu, which was gifted to the prime minister, for Rs 1.75 lakh.

Achar bought a portrait of Lord Kartikeya last year and said he will participate in the auction this year as well and has encouraged many others to do so.

He said he has traversed through the course the Ganga takes, right from Gangotri to West Bengal where it empties into the Bay of Bengal, and wants the holy river to be freed of all pollution.

"It is a unique idea to use the proceeds of the auction for cleaning the river. I admire the prime minister's vision and take part in the auction to do my bit for supporting the cause," he said, a view

echoed by Jain.

'Namami Gange' mission, an integrated conservation mission for effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of the Ganga, was launched by the Modi government after it came to power in 2014. Officials noted that the prime minister has often stressed on public participation to make such an exercise successful.

The gifts received by him in the country and abroad are e-auctioned and the proceeds from the auctions are donated for the rejuvenation of the river.

"There was an overwhelming response to the e-auction last year as people from across India lapped up various gifts and mementoes by bidding much higher compared to the base price," an official said.

international

INDIA DECLARES STATE MOURNING SUNDAY

The Government of India has declared one-day state mourning as a mark of respect to Queen Elizabeth II. The national flag will be flown at half-mast Sunday throughout India and there will be no official entertainment programme on that day, a statement issued by the government said Friday. Britain is observing 10-day state mourning for Queen Elizabeth II. Britain's royal family will observe a period of mourning that will end on the seventh day after the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. The date of the funeral is yet to be decided



WORLD MOURNS QUEEN

Thousands of people, from ordinary Britons to foreign tourists, congregated outside royal residences Friday to pay their respects to the late Queen Elizabeth, speaking of their shock and sadness at her death but praising a woman who had been part of their lives for so many years



An official period of state mourning is underway in the UK Friday, a day after Queen Elizabeth II died, and there has been an outpouring of grief from members of the public who have been laying flowers at royal residences around the country for its longest-reigning monarch.

Churches also tolled their bells, after the Church of England sent out guidance to parishes, chapels and cathedrals across the country encouraging them to open for prayer or special services. Major sporting events, including football and cricket matches, have been postponed as a mark of respect. British Prime Minister Liz Truss led trib-

utes at a special joint Parliament session convened to pay tribute to the Queen, who died at her Balmoral Castle residence in Scotland Thursday.

The special session is expected to last through the day until 10pm local time. The regular business of government is at a halt, unless anything urgent occurs, with the focus to fall entirely on the Queen during the 10-hour sitting of Parliament.

Truss and senior ministers are scheduled for public service of remembrance at St. Paul's Cathedral in central London and then the government is due to confirm the length of national mourning, which is likely to be around 12 days, from now up to the day after the Queen's funeral. The funeral day will be a public holiday in the form of a Day of National Mourning.

Overnight Thursday, crowds gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London and also at Windsor Castle in Berkshire, with many in tears as they paid their personal tributes to Britain's longest-serving monarch who died aged 96 after a 70-year reign.

Charles arrives at Palace

London: King Charles III has arrived at Buckingham Palace for the first time as Britain's monarch. The king flew to London from Scotland Friday and was driven to the royal residence in an official Bentley. A large crowd cheered as the car arrived at the palace gates. He got out of the car to greet well-wishers and look at some of the huge pile of floral tributes left to honour his mother Queen Elizabeth II. Some called "Thank you Charles" and "Well done, Charlie!" as he shook hands with the crowd. Several shouted "God save the King!" A few broke into a rendition of Britain's national anthem, which is now titled "God Save the King".



The UK flag flutters at half mast at Buckingham Palace in London, Britain REUTERS



The Sydney Opera House is illuminated in honour of Queen Elizabeth II in Sydney, Australia REUTERS



Members of the Honourable Artillery Company fire a gun salute outside the Tower of London Friday ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Operation London Bridge' sets in as Queen departs

New York: The death of Queen Elizabeth II, exactly a year after her husband Prince Phillip, the duke of Edinburgh, passed, has set in motion a meticulously choreographed and coordinated procedure for which the Palace, the government, the news media, the local authorities and the Queen herself had long planned.

The *New York Times* said that much of it has been planned down to the minute, and some things have already fallen into place. By the time the world knew about the Queen's death, her son Charles had already become king. Under common law, the moment of the sovereign's death marks the moment the heir becomes the monarch.

The national anthem will again shift back to "God Save the King". "I think it's going to be an extraordinary psychological dis-

location for British people," Professor Murphy said. "By now you've pretty much got to be in your late 70s or 80s to remember a time when Queen Elizabeth wasn't on the throne."

Then the Foreign Office was responsible for relaying the message to Commonwealth leaders, a loose organisation largely composed of former colonies of the British Empire, which includes 15 countries where the monarch is also the head of state. Charles, as the new king, automatically became the head of state for the realms once ruled by his mother.

OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

The plan to deal with the death of the head of state in Britain was termed Operation London Bridge, and first reported by *The Guardian* in 2017, and later by *Politico* in 2021.

According to *The Guardian*, the



London Bridge plan, factored in the eventuality of her passing at Balmoral. The part of the plan for her death at her favourite castle in Scotland was codenamed 'Operation Unicorn'. These protocols are actually a detailed script for key logistical matters and procedures, including the funeral procession. The plan terms the day after her

death as D+1 and the day of her funeral as D+10 (D-day plus 10 days). During this period, the British parliament will suspend business for these 10 days after relaying a condolence message.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEATH

As per the plan, after informing the British PM, the information about the Queen's death has already been conveyed to other governments where she was the head of state, and then to 38 other nations of the Commonwealth.

Also, Queen's death means that Prince Charles immediately becomes King and head of state for 14 Commonwealth realms. However, an official proclamation will only be made a day after the Queen's death. This, according to the *BBC*, will happen at St James's Palace in London, in front of a ceremonial body known as the Accession Council.

WHAT HAPPENS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS

The Queen's coffin is likely to be taken to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the *Guardian* says, adding that the plan also includes a ceremonial procession to St Giles's Cathedral on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh.

The coffin will then be flown to London, the same report pointed out. The *Politico* report had also mentioned the possibility of the coffin being taken to London by royal train.

On D+5 - D-day plus five days - a ceremonial procession through London will take the coffin from Buckingham Palace to the Palace of Westminster. A service will be held at Westminster Hall.

As per the *Politico* reported plan, from D+6 to D+9, the Queen will lie in state at Westminster Hall, where people will be allowed to pay their respects.

Pak floods caused \$30bln economic loss, says Guterres

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 9: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Friday that floods are estimated to have caused about \$30 billion in economic losses to Pakistan, which is facing its worst floods situation in the last 30 years.

Guterres, who is visiting Pakistan on a two-day solidarity visit, asked the international community to come forward to help Pakistan to tackle the fallout of the massive floods which affected more than 33 million people and submerged one-third of the country.

"Pakistan needs massive financial support to respond to this crisis as according to initial estimates the losses are around \$30 billion," said the Secretary-General, who was speaking at the National Flood Response Coordination Centre (NFRCC) alongside Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Guterres also said that there was "no memory of anything similar to what has happened with the impact of climate change in Pakistan" and added the number of losses and victims was appalling.

"The numbers are appalling. I see the families that have lost their loved ones, houses, crops, jobs and are living in desperate conditions," he said, adding that effective solidarity and justice can be shown by mobilising massive support for Pakistan. The havoc caused by unprecedented rains and floods has killed nearly 1,350 people since early June.

The estimated losses by the UN chief exceeded the \$17.18 billion rapid assessment cost on projected economic losses as calculated by the government and endorsed by the provinces, according to *The News International*.

US sanctions Iran



REUTERS

Washington, Sept 9: The United States Friday imposed sanctions on Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security and its minister, accusing them of being tied to a disruptive July cyberattack on Albania and engaging in other cyber activities against the United States and its allies.

The US Treasury Department in a statement said the Ministry of Intelligence and Security directs several networks of cyber threat actors, including those involved in cyber espionage and ransomware attacks in support of the Iranian government.

"We will not tolerate Iran's increasingly aggressive cyber activities," the Treasury's Under

Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian Nelson, said in the statement.

The ministry was already designated under U.S. sanctions. Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Microsoft, whose cybersecurity research team helped investigate the incident, said in a blog post Thursday that the Iranian cyber operation involved a combination of digital espionage techniques, data wiping malware and online information operations. The goal of the hackers, according to researchers, appeared to be to embarrass Albanian government officials.

The July attacks temporarily disrupted government websites and other public services. Analysts say the operation was intended to punish Albania for supporting an Iranian dissident group based in the country, known as the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK).

Iran has disregarded "norms of responsible peacetime state behavior in cyberspace," Secretary of State Antony Blinken added in a statement.

Ukraine power plant needs safe zone: IAEA

AGENCIES

Kyiv, Sept 9: Europe's largest nuclear power plant was operating in emergency mode Friday for the fifth straight day due to the war in Ukraine, prompting the head of the UN atomic watchdog to call for the establishment of an immediate safety zone around it to prevent a nuclear accident.

The six-reactor Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant came under the control of Russian forces early in the war but is being operated by Ukrainian staff. The plant and surrounding areas have been repeatedly hit by shelling that Russia and Ukraine blame on each other.

The last power line connecting the plant to the Ukrainian electricity grid was cut Monday, leaving the plant without an outside source of electricity. It is receiving power for its own safety systems from the only one of the six reactors that remains operational. Energoatom, the state nuclear operator, said Friday that repairs to



the outside lines are impossible because of the shelling and that operating the plant in what is called an "island" status carries "the risk of violating radiation and fire safety standards."

Earlier, Kotin told *The Associated Press* that the only operating reactor "can be stopped completely" at any moment and as a consequence, the only power source would be a diesel generator. There are 20 generators on site and enough diesel fuel for 10 days. After that, about 200 tons of diesel fuel would be needed daily for the generators, which he said is "impossible" while the plant is occupied by Russian forces.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Friday that there was little likelihood of re-establishing reliable offsite power lines to the plant. "This is an unsustainable situation and is becoming increasingly precarious," Grossi said.

He called for an "immediate cessation of all shelling in the entire area" and the establishment of a nuclear safety and security protection zone. "This is the only way to ensure that we do not face a nuclear accident," he said.

Fighting continued Friday in southern and eastern Ukraine and

Only the withdrawal of the Russians from the plant and the creation of a security zone around it can normalise the situation at the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Only then will the world be able to exhale

PETRO KOTIN | HEAD OF ENERGOATOM

in the north, where Ukraine claims to have recently pushed Russian forces out of some areas. Russian planes bombed the hospital in the town of Velika Pysarivka, on the border with Russia, said Dmytro Zhyvitskyi, governor of the Sumy region. He said the building was destroyed and there were an unknown number of casualties.

In the Donetsk region in the east - one of two that Russia declared to be sovereign states at the outset of the war - eight people were killed in the city of Bakhmut over the past day and the city is without water and electricity for the fourth straight day, said governor Pavlo Kyrylenko.

INDIA, US TO SOON HOLD TRADE POLICY FORUM MEET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Los Angeles, Sept 9: India and the US will "very soon" hold the next ministerial-level meeting of the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in America to discuss ways for promoting trade and investment between the countries.

India and the US held the 12th TPF in New Delhi November 23 last year. The forum is an inter-agency collaboration led by the US Trade Representative (USTR). It

is the principal trade dialogue between the two countries. It has five focus groups: Agriculture, Investment, Innovation and Creativity (intellectual property rights), Services, and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers.

"We will be having the next trade policy forum very soon in the US and in the TPF we are hoping to add further deliverables and newer areas of engagement being discussed, for which both teams have been tasked to start engaging with



each other," Goyal told reporters here. The minister held a bilateral meeting here with USTR Katherine Tai and US Commerce Secretary

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Gina Raimondo.

When asked about restoring the trade benefits under GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) programme of the

US, the Indian minister said: "I don't think that's an issue anymore. None of our exports have been affected by the GSP. So I think that's not an issue; that we have even

discussed in recent times, including today".

Talking about other meetings, the minister said he discussed ways to increase trade and economic relations with his counterparts from Vietnam and Japan.

"Areas of mutual interest were discussed, particularly with the view to expanding our exports to both these countries," Goyal said adding there is a huge potential, particularly with Japan to further expand bilateral trade.

of the day quote

Today's India is buying more from e-marketplaces than from conventional retail outlets. Indian consumer has a millennial mindset who is willing to try out new products, new brands that can impress them with some differentiated offerings

RS GOENKA | CHAIRMAN, EMAMI

To remain safe in today's heightened cybersecurity climate, organisations will need to approach their objectives and goals at a project, programme and strategic level

SAMPATH SOMMYANARAYAN | CEO, VERIZON BUSINESS

Today, is a momentous occasion for us, as we announce the expansion of our EV portfolio further with a new mainstream intervention from the stable of Tata Motors, the Tiago EV

SHAILESH CHANDRA | MD (PASSENGER VEHICLES), TATA MOTORS

SHORT TAKES

Bitcoin leaps over \$20K as dollar falls

Washington: Bitcoin surged past the \$20,000 barrier and was eyeing its best day in six weeks Friday as the US dollar fell broadly and markets found reasons to be cheerful at the end of a four week. Bitcoin, the biggest cryptocurrency by market value, rose more than 7% to \$20,796, a two-week high. Ether, the second-biggest, rose 5% to also hit a two-week peak at \$1,717. Bitcoin had been as low as \$18,540 Wednesday.

Tatas in talks to assemble iPhones

New Delhi: Indian conglomerate Tata Group is in talks with Taiwanese supplier Wistron Corp to establish a joint venture to assemble Apple's iPhones in India, Bloomberg News reported Friday. The venture would be the Indian salt-to-software group's latest push into technology manufacturing as it taps Wistron's expertise in product development, supply chain and assembly, Bloomberg added, citing people with knowledge of the matter.

SpiceJet appoints Kumar as CFO

Mumbai: Budget carrier SpiceJet Friday said it has appointed Ashish Kumar as its Chief Financial Officer. Kumar's appointment for the post is effective from September 9, SpiceJet said in a statement. Kumar succeeds Sanjeev Taneja, who quit the struggling carrier August 31. Before joining the Gurugram-based low-cost airline, Kumar was serving as vice president for corporate finance at Interglobe Enterprises since January 2019, SpiceJet said.

Amp Energy to make solar cells

New Delhi: Amp Energy Friday announced its foray into solar cells and modules manufacturing, unveiling its plan to set up a joint venture with WebSol Energy Systems. "Amp Energy India... Has announced a joint venture (JV) with WebSol Energy Systems Ltd for manufacturing and production of up to 1.2 GW monocrystalline PERC solar cells and modules," a company statement said. The production of monocrystalline PERC solar cells and modules would be in two phases of 600 MW each at WebSol's existing unit at Falta in West Bengal.



“We will be having the next trade policy forum very soon in the US and in the TPF we are hoping to add further deliverables and newer areas of engagement being discussed, for which both teams have been tasked to start engaging with each other”

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

JEEP ENTERS EV MARKET

The Jeep brand, owned by Stellantis, announced to introduce four new all-electric SUVs in North America and Europe by the end of 2025. Jeep showed the first images of two fully electric SUVs, the all-new Wrangler-inspired Jeep Recon and a new electric Wagoneer, codenamed Wagoneer S



10-MONTH LOW

Equity MFs inflow at ₹6,120cr

AUGUST WAS THE 18TH STRAIGHT MONTH OF INFLOWS IN EQUITY MUTUAL FUNDS (MFS) BUT THE PACE OF INFLOW HAS BEEN DECLINING OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Inflows in equity mutual funds dropped to a 10-month low level at ₹6,120 crore in August on account of investors taking cautious approach and temporarily shifting of money from equity to debt due the rising interest rate scenario.

The net inflows in August were lower compared to ₹8,898 crore in July, ₹15,495 crore seen in June, ₹18,529 crore in May and ₹15,890 crore in April, according to data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) Friday.

The month of August saw the lowest level of inflow since October 2021, when equity mutual funds had attracted ₹5,215 crore.

Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021. These schemes had witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore.

Priya Agrawal, Money Coach, LXME, attributed the lower inflow to investors taking cautious approach this month and money is temporarily shifting from equity to debt considering the rising interest rate scenario.

While MF equity flows have moderated, foreign portfolio investor flows have revived and supported equity markets.

Within the equity funds, Flexi-Cap funds, large and Mid-Cap, Mid-



August saw the lowest level of inflow since October 2021

SIP contribution touched an all-time high of ₹12,693 crore

Debt mutual funds witnessed an inflow of ₹49,164 crore

“The fall in inflows in equities could be attributed to the sharp upmove in the equity market, as investors become wary of the higher valuation”

SANJIV BAJAJ | JOINT CHAIRMAN & MD, BAJAJ CAPITAL

Cap and Small Cap funds witnessed the largest inflows.

In addition, multiple funds were launched during the month, given capital markets regulator Sebi's lift on the ban around this.

The monthly SIP (systematic investment plan) contribution touched an all-time high of ₹12,693 crore in August and the number of SIP accounts too rose to an all-time

high at 5.71 crore crossing the June high of 5.61 crore.

Further, mutual fund folios crossed all-time high at 13.64 crore and retail MF folios too touched record high at 10.89 crore.

Apart from equity, debt mutual funds witnessed an inflow of ₹49,164 crore last month, much higher than ₹4,930 crore seen in July.

However, hybrid schemes saw a net withdrawal of ₹6,601 crore and Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) experienced a net outflow of ₹38 crore.

Overall, the mutual fund industry registered a net inflow of ₹65,077 crore in August compared to ₹23,605 crore in July.

The inflow pushed the Assets Under Management (AUM) of the industry to rise to ₹39.34 lakh crore at the end of August from ₹37.75 lakh crore at the end of July.

CHIP SUPPLY IMPROVES

PV despatches zoom 21%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Passenger vehicle wholesales in India witnessed a 21 per cent annual growth in August, riding on improved supplies of semiconductors and festive demand, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

As per the latest data released by industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle (PV) despatches to dealers stood at 2,81,210 units last month, against 2,32,224 units in August 2021.

Passenger car wholesales were up 23 per cent at 1,33,477 units last month, as against 1,08,508 units in the year-ago period, SIAM said.

Utility vehicle despatches were higher by 20 per cent at 1,35,497 units in August, as compared to 1,12,863 units in the same month a year ago.

Similarly total two-wheeler wholesales increased to 15,57,429 units last month, compared to 13,38,740 units in the year-ago period, a growth

of 16 per cent.

Motorcycle wholesales grew by 23 per cent at 10,16,794 units in August 2022, as compared to 8,25,849 units in the year-ago month.

Scooter sales were higher by 10 per cent at 5,04,146 units last month, as against 4,60,284 units in August 2021, SIAM said.

Total three-wheeler sales rose to 38,369 units last month, against 23,606 units in August 2021, up 63 per cent.

Sales across segments rose by 18 per cent to 18,77,072 units in August this year, from 15,94,573 units in the same month last year, SIAM said. "While a good monsoon and the upcoming festive season is likely to increase demand, SIAM is keeping a close watch on the dynamic supply-side challenges," SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said in a statement.

However, he said high CNG price is a big challenge for the industry and is looking forward to interventions and support from the government.

Direct tax mop-up plunges by 35%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Direct tax collection, including personal income tax, rose by 35.46 per cent to Rs 6.48 lakh crore in the current fiscal up to September 8, reflecting an uptick in the economy.

The country recorded a GDP growth of 13.5 per cent during the first quarter ended June 30, 2022.

Direct tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs 5.29 lakh crore which is 30.17 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year, according to the data released by the Income Tax Department.

This collection is 37.24 per cent of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for 2022-23, it said.

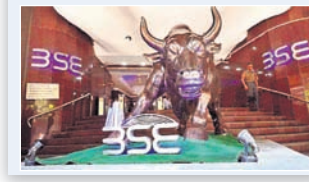
Refunds amounting to Rs 1.19 lakh crore have been issued from April 1 to September 8, 2022, which are 65.29 per cent higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year, it said.

"Direct Tax collections up to September 8, 2022, show that gross collections are at Rs 6.48 lakh crore, which is 35.46 per cent higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year," it said.

So far as the growth rate for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) in terms of gross revenue collections is concerned, the growth rate for CIT is 25.95 per cent while that for PIT (including STT) is 44.37 per cent.

M-cap of BSE-listed cos hit new all-time high of ₹283 lakh cr

New Delhi: The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached a fresh all-time high of ₹283 lakh crore Friday as equities continued to rally for the second straight session. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 104.92 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at 59,793.14 after hitting the 60,000-mark in intra-day trade. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit an all-time high of ₹2,83,03,925.62 crore. In two days, investors' wealth climbed ₹2,16,603.93 crore. "Although market pared gains, Sensex hitting the psychological 60,000-mark intra-day signifies investors' faith in the domestic economy. While stock markets may look a bit pricey, India's long-term growth potential does bring some stability at a time when the economic slowdown in key economies is starting at recession fears," said Anil Athawale, Deputy Vice President - Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd.



EU ministers divided over capping Russian gas price

An EU proposal to cap Russian gas prices has so far failed to win support from a majority of countries, with Russia threatening to completely cut off the dwindling supplies that have continued to flow if such a step is taken

REUTERS

Brussels, Sept 9: European Union energy ministers were split Friday over whether to cap Russian gas prices, as they met to work out steps to shield citizens and businesses from sky-high energy bills.

But ministers arriving for the emergency meeting indicated broad backing for moves to prevent power providers from being crushed by a liquidity crunch and several said it was urgent to decouple the price of gas from other cheaper energy sources.

Friday's ministerial talks aim to whittle down options for further discussion, rather than reaching a final decision on ways to tackle a crisis fuelled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But many said agreement and action needed to be swift.



"We are in an energy war with Russia," Czech Industry Minister Jozef Sikela said. "We have to send a clear signal that we would do whatever it takes to support our households, our economies."

Energy bills, already surging as demand for gas recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic, have rocketed higher since the Ukraine war. As Russia has reduced gas deliveries to Europe following the imposition of Western sanctions, EU governments have scrambled to limit the resulting energy price shock.

Baltic states are among those backing the idea, saying it would deprive Moscow of cash to fund military action in Ukraine.

But central and eastern European states, many of them more reliant than others on Russian fuel, fear losing all their supplies, while some question whether a cap would have much

impact on reducing prices when deliveries are so low.

"If price restrictions were to be imposed exclusively on Russian gas, that would evidently lead to an immediate cut-off in Russian gas supplies. It does not take a Nobel Prize to recognise that," Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said.

MARKET REFORMS

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said EU ministers should give Brussels the green light to prepare legislation to decouple the gas price from the price consumers pay for power from other energy carriers.

The European Commission this week said it would propose a measure to claw back revenues from non-gas power generators and spend the cash on cutting consumer bills.

A draft of the Commission proposal, seen by Reuters, would cap at 200 euros (\$201.74) per megawatt hour the revenues non-gas producer receive. It would apply to wind, nuclear and coal generators.

European power prices are typically set by gas plants, so the cap would aim to skim off excess profits made in recent months by non-gas producers that have lower running costs but have still been able to sell their power at soaring prices.

Industry pitches for sustainable electric vehicle ecosystem

Marking the World EV Day, the SMEV urged people to advocate the cause of green mobility among their family and friends to become a part of the revolution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Strengthening of local supply chains is important to create a sustainable electric vehicle ecosystem in the country, the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) said Friday.

"The overwhelming response from the citizens has outpaced the supply side of OEMs. As we move

forward with the aim of making India an EV hub, it's imperative that all stakeholders are in harmony so a solid logistical foundation can be built for the industry," SMEV Director General Sohinder Gill said in a statement.

Hence, on the occasion of World EV Day, SMEV invites all the industry players to come together and work towards strengthening the local supply chain market so that a sustainable EV ecosystem can be created in the country, he added.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and International Council for Clean Transportation (ICCT) in a statement lauded the Delhi government's action plan to install 18,000 new charging stations by 2024, noting that similar strategies can be replicated in other



“As we move forward with the aim of making India an EV hub, it's imperative that all stakeholders are in harmony so a solid logistical foundation can be built for the industry”

SOHINDER GILL | DG, SMEV

states for supporting widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

Tata Power Head - Business Development (EV) Virendra Goyal noted that development of an easy, accessible charging infrastructure is absolutely essential for large-scale

adoption of EVs in the country.

Elaborating further, Mahindra & Mahindra Executive Director (Auto and Farm sectors) Rajesh Jejurikar said the company remains very optimistic about the expansion of the electric mobil-

ity in the country.

Bullish on green mobility, the auto major Thursday unveiled its first electric SUV model - XUV400, which it plans to launch in January next year.

"We are also very realistic and which is why we said that five years from now we expect about 20-30 per cent of our SUVs to be electric," he noted.

Mahesh Babu, CEO - Switch India and COO - Switch Mobility said that in order to meet India's global commitment to become Net-Zero by 2070, it is important to prioritise not just public transport, but public transport with zero tailpipe emissions.

"Electric buses are clearly the best and obvious solution to accelerate decarbonisation with in-

creasing mass mobility," he added. The company is the electric vehicle division of Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland.

Luxury car maker Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon said the company has a clear road map towards sustainable mobility and is committed to developing an EV ecosystem.

"We have successfully installed over 100 chargers across India and we will continue to increase this in the days, months and years forward to ensure ease of ownership for Audi e-tron and other EV owners. The future is electric and Audi India is ready for it," he stated.

World EV Day is observed September 9 every year in order to educate people about the need for electric vehicles.

US Open to get new champ

Flushing Meadows set to get new woman conqueror when World No.1 Swiatek, 5th ranked Jabeur meet in their first American Grand Slam final

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 9: Getting to a Grand Slam final is no longer new to Ons Jabeur. She figures it's time to add a major trophy to her list of groundbreaking accomplishments. And she's sure she is more ready to do it at the US Open than she was at Wimbledon two months ago.

Jabeur reached a second consecutive Slam title match without needing to produce her best tennis Thursday night, taking full advantage of a shaky showing by Caroline Garcia to win their semifinal at Flushing Meadows 6-1, 6-3.

Saturday, with a championship on the line, Jabeur will go up against World No.1 Iga Swiatek, who grabbed the last four games, and 16 of the last 20 points, to come back and beat No.6 Aryna Sabalenka 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the second semifinal.

The first step for Swiatek to turn things around came when she headed to the locker room after the first set — to use

Feels more real, to be honest with you, just to be in the final again. At Wimbledon, I was kind of just living the dream, and I couldn't believe it. Now just, I hope, I'm getting used to it. Now maybe I know what to do

ONS JABEUR

I feel like my level of trust should be higher for sure. I feel like I trust myself on clay, and here I tried to accept I am still not trusting myself and have to prove myself against heavy hitters. Having doubts is not nice, but I found it pretty motivating

IGA SWIATEK

the bathroom and think about what to adjust on court.

Swiatek, a 21-year-old from Poland, already owns two trophies from the French Open's red clay, including one this year, but never had been past the fourth round on New York's hard courts.

Sabalenka, meanwhile, dropped to 0-3 in Slam semi-

finals for her career and 12-11 in three-setters this year. She broke for a 4-2 lead in the third set — and 17 minutes it was over.

Swiatek has emerged as a dominant figure in women's tennis this year, with a 37-match winning streak and six titles. If she can defeat Jabeur, Swiatek will become the first woman

since Angelique Kerber to win two major championships in one season.

The No.5-seeded Jabeur, a 28-year-old from Tunisia, was the runner-up at the All England Club in July and now will be the first African woman to participate in a final at the US Open in the professional era, which dates to 1968.

With four-time major champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in her guest box — they traded thumbs-up signals at match's end — Jabeur improved to 6-0 in semifinals this season and earned her tour-leading 92nd victory in all since the start of 2021. No.91 came when she defeated Ajla Tomljanovic, who eliminated Serena Williams in the third round.

To Jabeur's surprise, and delight, she heard her quarterfinal victory over Tomljanovic Tuesday was drawing viewers back home, even though it was on TV the same night as a Champions League game between Juventus and PSG. That's part of the way in which she is changing views about tennis in her country — and on a continent.

Since pro players were first admitted to major tennis tournaments, never had an African woman or Arab woman been to a Slam final until she did that two months ago at Wimbledon, where she ended up losing to Elena Rybakina.

In 2020, at the Australian Open, she became the first Arab woman to reach the quarterfinals at a major. Last year produced all sorts of milestones: first Arab player to break into the top 10 of the men's or women's rankings; first Arab to win a WTA title.

Neeraj opens up on struggles post Tokyo Olympics exploits

JAVELIN THROWER CONTINUES TO MAKE HISTORY AS HE BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TO CLAIM DIAMOND LEAGUE FINALS TITLE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Commercial obligations and social commitments took a toll on Neeraj Chopra following his historic Olympic gold. Having "learned" from experience, he plans to do things differently heading into next season.

Olympic gold medalist javelin thrower Chopra Thursday achieved yet another historic feat as he became the first Indian to win the prestigious Diamond League Finals title in Zurich.

Hours after his latest feat in the Swiss city, the 24-year-old woke up to a posse of Indian scribes waiting to get a quote or two from the country's track & field elite during a virtual interaction.

One of the questions was on his off-season planning in the future.

There is no 90m pressure on me, no disappointment, when it has to happen, it will happen. The important thing is World Athletics now takes note of Indian athletes and their performances

NEERAJ CHOPRA

"Last year was a very new experience for me, balancing was difficult, but I learned from last season," Chopra said. He vouched he will avoid everything he did in the last off-season, in order to peak at the right time and maintain his fitness.

"This time for the few commercial commitments I will give dates in advance. When the training time comes, I will be fully focused on that... So that the preparation is taken care of well. I will not rest too much, will start training early and keep my weight in check by not eating much."

The World Championship silver medalist added, "I started training late after Olympics. The biggest challenge was to regain fitness, I worked on techniques, worked on strength. I was very good technically this time. Javelin is a technical event, so it helped me this time."

While he has been consistently

throwing in the high eighties, Chopra has yet to cross the 90m barrier, but he is least perturbed by that as he feels winning matters the most.

"I am not disappointed at all, it's (90m) just a magical mark. It all depends on how you perform on that day, how you handle the situation... If you touch 90m and don't win, then also it doesn't matter."

Chopra's excellent run has ensured that Indians now expect a gold medal from him every time he walks out to compete. Speaking on the pressure of expectations, he said, "The problem is that everyone wants gold. One has to understand from deep within that athletics events involve intense competition. There is plenty of pressure already."

"I just give my 100 percent that day. When I won silver in the World Championships, a lot of people had come to me asked 'why silver this time, why no gold?' I think it goes beyond the colour of the medal, we have to support our athletes too, and not just focus on the medal."

In Zurich on Thursday, Chopra began with a foul but jumped to the top spot with a throw of 88.44m — his fourth career best — in his second attempt, and that turned out to be his winning effort. He had 88.00m, 86.11m, 87.00m and 83.60m in his next four throws.

India look to address finishing woes Man United stunned, Arsenal win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chester-le-Street, Sept 9: The focus will be on the Indian women team's finishing woes with the bat when it takes on England in the first of the three T20Is here Saturday.

After the loss in the final of the Commonwealth Games to Australia, India's second wicketkeeper Yastika Bhatia was axed at the expense of some bold inclusions in uncapped Kiran Prabhuv Navgire and Dayalan Hemalatha, both power-hitters.

Maharashtra batter Navgire, who plays for Nagaland, hogged the limelight with her record 162 not out against Arunachal Pradesh in the Senior T20 Trophy earlier this year, after which she was roped in by the Velocity squad for the T20 Challenge.

Navgire showed her power-hitting abilities by smashing the fastest fifty in the T20 Challenge in May, and it remains to be seen if she is picked ahead of her senior teammate Hemalatha, who makes a comeback after two years and is part of both the T20 and ODI squads.

The three-match ODIs, which

will be veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami's swansong, will follow the three T20Is. "In the Commonwealth Games, we did well but still there is scope for improvement," skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said.

India are set to go in with six batters. "I feel no matter whatever format you are playing, you need to have six batters in the side," Harmanpreet said. "Having two-three pure bowlers and two-three all-rounders can give you a great balance."

"We have a couple of new players to fill those areas we lacked in, like in the slog overs, when you need 10 runs or more per over. Before the World Cup if they can get equal chances, then you have a fair idea to select the team. We will definitely try some new things and at the same time give equal opportunities so we can make a good team," she added.

For England this will be a chance to redeem themselves after returning empty-handed from the CWG. England lost to New Zealand in the bronze medal play-offs.

The hosts will have their task cut

out with regular skipper Heather Knight recovering after a hip surgery. In Knight's absence, Nat Sciver was appointed skipper but she too has pulled out citing 'mental fatigue'. Katherine Brunt was 'rested' for the series.

Wicketkeeper-batter Amy Jones will lead the side in Sciver's absence and the onus will be on the England youngsters to make a mark ahead of next year's T20 World Cup.

Having made her Test and ODI debut earlier this year, seamer Lauren Bell is set for her maiden T20I appearance, joining the young seam duo of Freya Kemp and Issy Wong, who will have the big task to stop the Indian power-hitters.

THE SQUAD

Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sneha Rana, Renuka Singh, Meghna Singh, Radha Yadav, S Meghana, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Dayalan Hemalatha, Simran Dil Bahadur, Richa Ghosh (wk) and Kiran Prabhuv Navgire.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Sept 9: Cristiano Ronaldo returned to the starting lineup but Real Sociedad still upset Manchester United 1-0 at Old Trafford in their Europa League opener.

After failing to secure a transfer to a Champions League club, the star striker had to settle for playing in Europe's second-tier competition for the first time since 2002 with Sporting Lisbon.

Ronaldo had last started in a 4-0 loss to Brentford August 13 before United chalked up four consecutive victories in the Premier League. United manager Erik ten Hag had used the Portugal star off the bench during the winning streak.

Before their opening group stage game, a minute of silence was held to pay respect to Queen Elizabeth II, who died at the age of 96 Thursday. Both teams wore black armbands, and the flags at Old Trafford were at half-mast.

Brazilian teenager Marquinhos marked his Arsenal debut by scoring the opening goal and setting up a second in a 2-1 victory over Zurich in their opening group stage match. Eddie Nketiah scored the winner



EXPRESSION SAYS IT ALL: Manchester United players, including Cristiano Ronaldo, look dejected after their loss at Old Trafford against Real Sociedad

after Zurich equalized from a penalty awarded due to his foul as Arsenal rebounded from Sunday's 1-3 loss to United — their first defeat in the Premier League this season.

Lazio opened its campaign with a 4-2 victory over Feyenoord but fellow Italian club Roma lost 2-1 at Ludogorets in Bulgaria.

In the third-tier Europa Conference League, West Ham ral-

lied in the second half to beat Romania's FCSB 3-1 in London. Elsewhere, Villarreal beat Lech Poznan 4-3 while Fiorentina was held 1-1 at home by Latvian champion RFS.

The start of a match between Nice and Cologne in the ECL was delayed because of fights among supporters in the stands at Allianz Riviera stadium. Kickoff was

pushed back by 55 minutes. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

At Old Trafford, Brais Mendez converted from the spot for Real Sociedad in the second half, hitting the bottom corner of David de Gea's goal. The penalty was given for a handball by defender Lisandro Martinez. It was Real Sociedad's first win over United in European competitions.

In the Arsenal's game, the duo of Nketiah and Marquinhos were involved in the decisive moments of the team's victory while United States goalkeeper Matt Turner made his debut for the Gunners following his summer transfer from the New England Revolution in the Major League Soccer.

Nketiah found the back of the net with a header in the second half that went in between the legs of Zurich goalkeeper Yanick Brecher off a cross from Marquinhos.

The 19-year-old Marquinhos met a cross from Nketiah from the left to side-foot into the top corner and finish off a fluent counter-attack 16 minutes into the game. Despite Arsenal's dominance, the hosts equalized a minute before halftime after Mirlind Kryeziu sent Turner the wrong way from the spot.



PEP TALK: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur speaks to the players during practice session ahead of first T20I against England

'BAN' THREAT LOOMS OVER IOA POST IOC ULTIMATUM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sep 9: International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thursday issued a final warning to IOA to "resolve its governance issues" and hold elections by December, failing which the world sports body will ban India.

The executive board of the IOC, which made in Lausanne Thursday, also decided not to recognise any "acting/interim president" after Narinder Batra's ouster as Indian Olympic Association president and said it will deal with secretary general Rajeev Mehta as the main point of contact.

"In view of the ongoing internal disputes, governance shortcom-

ings and ongoing court cases, (IOC Executive Board) took the decision... To issue a final warning and consider the immediate suspension of the IOC of India at the next IOC Executive Board meeting in December 2022 if, by then, the IOC of India is not able to address and resolve its governance issues to the satisfaction of the IOC, in the interest of sport and the athletes.

"And operate properly through its governing bodies, i.e. The Executive Committee and General Assembly, and fulfill its obligations, in particular by holding its quadrennial elections in accordance with the Olympic Charter," the IOC's letter sent to IOA read. The IOC letter sent by James

McLeod, Director of Olympic Solidarity and NOC Relations, further said: "During this transition period, and given that the IOC does not currently recognise any 'interim/acting president' of the NOC of India, the NOC Secretary General will serve as the main point of contact to coordinate the next steps with the IOC, in close consultation and in agreement with the NOC Executive Council and General Assembly."

The IOC also stated that its Executive Board reserves the right to take any further action at any stage of the process depending on how the situation develops. The IOC also decided to postpone its session earlier scheduled to be held in Mumbai in March next year.

"In view of the uncertain situation, the IOC Session that is due to take place in Mumbai in May 2023 is postponed until September/October 2023," the letter said.

"Depending on the decisions that will be taken during the IOC Executive Board meeting in December 2022 relating to the NOC of India, the IOC Executive Board will decide as to whether the IOC Session in 2023 should be maintained in India or be relocated."

The IOC had also earlier threatened to suspend the IOA if it failed to conduct its election at the earliest. The IOA elections were due in December last year but could not be held due to amendments in the poll process.